

Dudley

CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 26, 2017

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CLEAR WAY FOR METRO ROUTE

Report by Jamie Brassington

WORK has begun to clear overgrowth from a derelict railway line which will become a new route for the Midland Metro tram service.

The new route will be built between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill's Merry Hill shopping centre on the former South Staffordshire Railway line, which closed to passengers in the 1960s.

Workers subcontracted by Midland Metro Alliance (MMA) have been clearing the tracks of plants and trees so structural and environmental surveys can be carried out.

Community leaders say the development will create 'huge opportunities' for jobs and tourism in the Black Country.

The work will finally link the major Black Country shopping centre with the rest of the region via rail.

The route will run from the Waterfront at Brierley Hill, passing Dudley Castle and on to link up with the existing Wolverhampton to Birmingham line at Wednesbury Great Western Street.

MMA, who are working on behalf of the new West Midlands Combined Authority, expect work on the route to begin in 2019 and it will be open for passengers by 2023.

MMA will have to submit a business case to the Department for Communities and Local Government before the long-awaited Dudley link can finally become a reality.

It is anticipated that funds will come from the Government and the West Midlands Combined Authority, which includes Birmingham and the Black Country local authorities.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise for Dudley Council, said: "We've been working hard with partners to make this project happen as we are set to benefit significantly when the Metro rolls in."

"The improved transport links will create huge opportunities for jobs and tourism in the area. Therefore it's great to see the project moving in the right direction and a commitment from all involved."

Alejandro Moreno, MMA Director, said: "We are very excited to begin work on this key route but before we can begin construction, we do need to carry out some preparatory work in order to decide what further works are required to prepare for construction."

In the long term, the authority says the new route will also provide a direct link to the HS2 high speed rail hub and Birmingham Airport.



Clearing way for tracks

MAYOR'S TOWPATH WALK TO HELP FUND CHARITIES



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif took part in a seven-mile walk to raise money for his three chosen charities

THE Mayor of Dudley took part in a seven-mile walk in Stourbridge to raise money for the group of charities he is helping during his year in office.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif set off from the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge on Sunday morning, leading a walk along the canal to the Prestwood area and back again.

Money raised by the sponsored walk will be divided between the three charities supported by the mayor - the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Dudley CIL (Centre for Inclusive Living) and the Dudley branch of Diabetes UK.

Councillor Hanif said: "After the Christmas festivities and over-indulgence lots of people start the new year with renewed enthusiasm to get fitter and slimmer."

He added that he hoped the sponsored walk will have helped to kick-start their fitness campaigns while raising money for three worthy charities.

Friends of Alfie Johnson is committed to helping children with disabilities in the Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton. Over the years it has helped many children and their families by buying specialist equipment and

funding services to enhance the quality of their lives. For more information see the friendsofalfiejohnson.org.uk website.

Dudley CIL is an organisation run by and for disabled people of all ages, providing information and support (www.dudleycil.org.uk).

Diabetes UK supports those living with diabetes, helps prevention of diabetes and backs research into the illness Diabetes UK's mission is that by bringing people together to work in partnership, they will support those living with diabetes (www.diabetes.org.uk).

DEATH

Inquest has opened on fatal car incident

AN inquest has opened on a 20-year-old woman who fell from a bonnet of a car being driven around a car park in Dudley.

Eleanor Underhill, from Shearwater Drive, Brierley Hill, died on January 3, eight days after sustaining head injuries in the incident on Boxing Day on the car park of the Tesco Extra, at Burnt Tree, at around 10.30pm.

A man and a woman aged 18, and a 19-year-old man, all from Stourbridge, have all been bailed until March 29.

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest.

ACCIDENT

Motorcyclist hurt in multi-vehicle crash

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital after he was in a collision involving a car and a lorry in Pensnett.

The crash happened on the High Street at around 9.40am on Monday.

The 24-year-old man suffered injuries to his knee and pelvis, and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

A spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service said: "We received a call at 9.40am on a collision on Pensnett High Street outside St Mark's Church of England Primary School.

ROAD

Barriers to keep out speeders and tippers

LOCKABLE bollards or barriers will be installed on a road following concerns about speeding and fly-tippers.

Bosses at Dudley Council approved the decision after residents raised concerns about Mears Coprice, which leads to 17 houses.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The road has become a fly-tipper's paradise and residents have become worried about people speeding. The bollards or barriers will be secured with a fire service lock to prevent access by four wheel vehicles."

The council received only one objection.

INSIDE

FIZZOGS TO BITE THE BIG APPLE



PAGE 8

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CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	12
MEMORY LANE	18
THE FAST TICKET	27
PROPERTY	35
MOTORING	46
SPORT	55 & 56
CONTACT US	

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Museum lands £129k grant for mine



Racecourse Colliery

A COLLIERY will be brought to life after the Black Country Living Museum landed a £129,000 grant.

The Racecourse Colliery was built at the Tipton Road attraction as a typical Black Country colliery. It was named after the 1846 Dudley Racecourse which was originally on the site.

The grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement will allow visitors to be able to see the colliery in action. The restoration work will begin next month and should be complete by February next year.

It will include a repair to the tub tramway so that coal can be transferred by pit pony, installation of atmospheric lighting, and the restoration of a pit cage which shows how miners were lowered into the shaft.

Costumed characters will tell the stories of those who worked in the mining industry.

The funding has been awarded to 39 museums across the country. The assessment panel said that they were particularly impressed by the museum's visitor numbers and agreed that the planned renovations would genuinely

increase the amount of time visitors spend on site.

The museum's deputy chief Jonathan Wilson said: "The completion of this project will mean the museum is able to provide an immersive and thought-provoking experience for our visitors and give them a real sense of what day-to-day life was like for the people and animals working above a Black Country mine."

The news follows the museum's multi-million pound plans to create a 1940s to 1960s town with historic buildings from across the region.

School told to improve again after inspection

A PRIMARY school has been told to improve by inspectors.

Wallbrook Primary School, on Bradleys Lane, Coseley, has been told it requires improvement by education watchdog Ofsted, following a visit on December 13.

Inspectors found the school 'required improvement' in three out of five areas – leadership and management, outcomes for pupils, and quality of teaching. However, it was rated 'good' in personal development, behaviour and welfare and early years provision.

It comes after the school, which currently has 272 pupils aged three to 11 on its roll, was told to improve after a previous inspection by Ofsted in November 2014.

The report states: "Leaders, managers and governors have not ensured that the school has improved consistently since the last inspection. Teaching is still not good enough to ensure that pupil's outcomes are good."

Headteacher Clare Longden, said: "We have much to be pleased with, especially our Early Years provision and the children's personal development. However, we recognise that we still have areas where we can improve, and our new leadership team had already identified and begun to address areas."

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley's cabinet member for children's services, said: "Although some areas have been highlighted for improvement, we believe that the school, with its new leadership team, has a strong basis on which to build."

Councillor will be governor again

A COUNCILLOR who claimed he was removed from his post as a school governor for 'speaking out' is returning to the governing board.

Councillor Michael Evans claims he was removed last year for criticising Dudley Council's decision to close Coseley School and move pupils to Dormston School. But he says he will return as a governor at the Sedgley school, where he previously served for 16 years.

Councillor Evans said: "I am still involved with Dormston School. I will be made a governor again but not as a local education authority governor. I think Dudley Council just wanted to make an example of me but I believe Dudley Council was wrong in their decision to force children on Dormston. I would still do the same again."

Park-and-ride hit by resurfacing work

COMMUTERS who use a Coseley train station park-and-ride service are being warned of disruption as part of resurfacing works this week.

The work at Gough Road park-and-ride was due to start on Monday and end tomorrow (Friday).

Call for probe into poor rank of borough schools

DUDLEY schools are among the worst in the country for GCSE results, according to the latest figures

The borough is ranked 128th out of 152 local authority areas, based on GCSE results from A* to G across eight subjects. Sandwell was the only Black Country borough to be ranked lower.

This new 'Attainment 8 measure' is one of two new ways schools are judged. Dudley is 63rd on a list showing the rate of schools under-performing based on their 'Progress 8' score. This looks at pupils' progress throughout secondary school.

A total of 55.7 per cent of pupils in Dudley are achieving A* to C in both English and maths.

The figures show that, over all, one in ten schools are under-performing.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, who represents the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward, said: "There is cause for concern. We need to look at what the underlying factors are and put whatever support mechanisms we have to put them in place.

"The last thing we want is for those schools to become failing and to go into special measures.

Challenging

"More often than not staff have to work in very challenging circumstances and it's always sad when results are not what you expect."

The top two performing schools in the borough measured against Attainment 8 are Old Swinford Hospital and Redhill School and Specialist Language College, both in Stourbridge.

They were followed by the Bishop Milner Catholic College and The Dormston School, in Dudley and The Kingswinford School & Science College.

Councillor Barlow continued: "This is fantastic news that these schools continue to maintain such high standards. It proves that hard work pays off and with the right support it makes a huge difference."

Schools had previously been rated on the number of pupils achieving five A* to C GCSEs, including English and maths.

Walsall was ranked 123rd, and Sandwell came 147th.

Success is sweet for cake business



Rachel Sanders of Cake Bag with Councillor Khurshid Ahmed and, right, organiser businessman Steve Parker

A BUSINESSWOMAN has got the future of her company in the bag after winning an ideas and innovation contest.

Dudley Council teamed up with successful local business owners and advisers to offer dragon's den-type events for organisations to pitch their ideas to experts.

Rachel Sanders, of Kingswinford, who runs Cake Bag, won the pitch to win £1,000 worth of in-depth business support for her subscription cake decorating firm. The

34-year-old said: "I have always been interested in cake decorating and it struck me that there was a gap in the market for people to receive a regular delivery of cake decorating tools and equipment.

"Cake decorators can either sign up to receive monthly Cake Bags, which often include tutorials, or projects to do, or they can select to receive a one-off delivery."

"It was great to get feedback from the team. I can't wait to start discussing future plans."

A total of 19 small companies also attended to explain their ideas for a new business, or to expand their existing one. Everyone who pitched received immediate advice on viability, strategy and tactic.

The businessman behind the initiative, Steve Parker, of Steve Parker ICD International Company Development, said: "We were really impressed by everyone that came along and hope that we helped them all with real, honest advice."

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Academy's new primary could target technology

A NEW primary school could be built in Coseley, one of three for the Black Country under new proposals.

Hundreds of pupils could be enrolled at the free schools, which will be supported and led by the Collegiate Academy Trust.

The schools are proposed for Coseley, Willenhall and Darlaston and could be open as soon as September 2018. They will accompany the new Shireland High Tech Primary, which is also run by the trust, in Smethwick.

Education bosses say that a 'number of sites' are being considered but nothing has been confirmed yet.

Sir Mark Grundy, executive principal of the Collegiate Academy Trust said: 'Because Shireland does very well in terms of standards, the department came to us and said would you open a free school.'

'We are currently beginning to finalise a land deal with the site in Smethwick and because they liked the idea of a primary that works different, the DfE (Department for Education) said would you open another three.'

'The plans were submitted in October and we will be having an interview with the DfE this week. If granted the schools will be in Willenhall, Darlaston and Coseley.'

The proposed builds will be called technology primaries and have state-of-the-art learning equipment.

The move comes a year after Dudley Council bosses approved the phased closure of secondary school The Coseley School.

Going under to sing in the cavern

A CHOIR will be singing in the deepest heart of the Black Country this summer – underground in a cavern.

Following a similar popular concert a few years ago, Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir is returning to sing in the aptly-named Singing Cavern under Dudley's Castle Hill on July 8.

Audience members will be transported from The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, by Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust boats for the hour-long concert in the unique location with its famous acoustics.

The boat departs at 7pm and will return at around 9pm. Tickets are £11.50 and are available at dudley-canal-trust.org.uk/trip/cradley-heath-male-voice-choir/ or by calling 0121 557 6265.

Classic car show returns to NEC

BIRMINGHAM NEC will host the UK's fastest growing classic car event from March 31 to April 2.

More than 19,000 enthusiasts attended last year's Practical Classics Classic Car and Restoration Show.

Reunited with lost pet after 14 years



Rachel Wells, Tiger and Roger Colbourne

THE purr-pelling origins of Tiger the cat, who for the past 14 years has made his home at the Black Country Living Museum, have been discovered at last.

A trip to the vet's revealed that the mysterious tabby, who has been adopted by the maintenance team at the museum, is the missing pet of veterinary nurse Rachel Wells.

One day Tiger, previously known as Snitch, decided to set up home in the grounds of the open air attraction off Tipton Road.

Roger Colbourne, who has been

working at the museum for 27 years, quickly took a shine to their new resident and the pair became inseparable. For years Roger has fed and cared for Tiger, as he is now known. But a microchip scan revealed his owner was Rachel, who had never given up hope of finding her much-loved pet.

Rachel Wells, 34, who now lives near to the museum and works at White Cross Vets in Wolverhampton, added: 'Tiger was 18 months old when he went to play out 14 years ago but he never returned. I spent months putting up posters and trying to find

him. Each time I moved house I always updated my contact details on his microchip. When he finally reappeared after all these years I couldn't believe it.'

Roger, 70, said: 'I have grown extremely close to Tiger and can't imagine life without his companionship. I lost my dog Rose over Christmas but seeing Tiger every day really helped me through that.'

Seeing the bond between Tiger and Roger, Rachel has decided to register the cat's chip to Roger, so the cat can stay at the museum.

Council U-turn over school crossing patrols

CONTROVERSIAL plans to axe funding for school crossing patrols in Dudley have been ditched in a major U-turn by council chiefs.

Schools had been facing having to pay for school crossing patrols themselves. But overwhelming opposition, including a 20,000 strong-petition and demonstrations has now forced a rethink.

The council has confirmed it would continue to fund the service for 2017/18, a decision which campaigners have hailed as down to 'the power of the people'.

The authority had described it as 'a non-statutory service' and argued that by no longer funding the wardens it would save £395,000. The council claimed that the service was costing around £30 per pupil.

A consultation with the 60 schools which currently use service was undertaken in October and November.

The results were due to go to a scrutiny committee on January 30, but following the strong feedback from the public the council decided to change its proposal.

Campaigning warden Julie Paskin, who has been helping children cross the borough's roads for the past 12 years, is among those delighted by the U-turn.

Support

The 47-year-old from Woodsetton said: 'I'm over the moon. It's been a big campaign. We've had protests and petitions at the school gates.

'We've had so much support and it's been nice to see that we are valued. It's power to the people.'

'We love our job, meeting all the children. It was shocking when they first announced it, especially as last year the council told us we were essential.'

In total there are 63 wardens, and a further 14 on standby who can be stationed at any of the borough's 81 sites.

The council says consultation with schools and all political groups will continue, to see how the service can be made sustainable long term.

The revised proposal to fund wardens for another year will go to scrutiny later in the year.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: 'We have listened to concerns and have found a way to fund the service for at least a further year as part of a healthy schools initiative.'

Support

From heartache to helping hand



Gurcarn Singh Bebi with Action Heart's Russell Tipson and charity co-ordinator Pauline Jenkins

A DEVOTED husband from Brierley Hill has raised £1,000 in memory of his wife.

Gurcharan Bedi raised £500 for Action Heart and £500 for The Leukaemia Unit Appeal at Russells Hall Hospital through a raffle that he organised.

The 74-year-old hopes that the money will help other families who are experiencing similar heartache after his wife, Surjit Bedi, died from cancer.

Mr Bedi said: 'I raised the money in memory of my late wife who died from cancer in 2008. She was a kind woman who was known very well by the local community and is missed by all who knew her.'

Mr Bedi sold raffle tickets to friends and residents in the Brierley Hill area, raising £1,000.

Over the past three years, he has raised a total of £3,800 for the two charities.

Mr Bedi said: 'I raised the money in memory of my late wife who died from cancer in 2008. She was a kind woman who was known very well by the local community and is missed by all who knew her.'

'It's really good to be able to help other people that are going through the same thing as we were. I'm very happy to be helping out and giving something back to the people that helped us whilst she was sick and in and out of hospital.'

Joy Brown, fundraising executive at Action Heart, said: 'This is the third year Mr Bedi has supported us in this way and it is very much appreciated.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hippodrome 'fall back' withdrawn

A 'fall back' planning application to 'potentially' demolish the town's Hippodrome has been withdrawn by Dudley Council.

The application was submitted in case terms agreed between the authority and the campaigners who took over ownership of the Castle Hill landmark were not met.

Planning and development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was being withdrawn after Black Country Hippodrome Ltd voiced concerns it 'could have a detrimental effect on potential funding'.

Care home can build extension

A CARE home has had plans approved to build an extension which would create five extra bedrooms.

The extension would be made at Castle View Residential Home located on Priory Road, Dudley.

Dudley Council gave approval to the plans but said that the development should begin before December 22, 2019.

The extension would bring the amount of bedrooms at the property from 11 to 16 in total.

It will be built to two-storeys and en suites will be provided.

Choir join Sally Army for concert

CRADLEY Heath Salvation Army Band and Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir will be uniting for a concert, entitled A Feast of Music, on February 25 at 7pm at the Salvation Army, Meredeth Street.

The choir's press officer, Eddie Nicholls said: 'There will be music to suit most tastes, from pop to classics and there will be refreshments.'

Tickets cost £5 and for more information phone David Cormell on (01384) 393067.

Festival of Glass to be held this summer

THE International Festival of Glass will return to Stourbridge this summer. It will take place from August 25 to 28 at the Ruskin Glass Centre and Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

A series of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, taster sessions and family activities will be available. Exhibitions, workshops and entertainment will be offered at several venues within the town's Glass Quarter.

Plans are being made and visit www.ifg.org.uk for further details.

New Star PR boss

A NEW director has been appointed to lead Star Public Relations, which has been launched by Midland News Association, the parent company of the Express & Star and The Chronicle. Sundeep Sehjpal joins Star Public Relations with 14 years of media experience.

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ANYONE taking bets on President Trump not completing his first four-year term? I'm not talking about assassination or impeachment but Trump simply getting fed up. Today, he is the star of the world. Tomorrow he will discover how little power he actually has, how much money he is losing, how he and his family's every move and every careless word or Tweet is dogged by the press and social media.

A READER asks, if somebody takes a pot-shot at President Trump, will the bodyguards shout: "Donald, duck!"

THAT great social observer Will Self suggests wistfully that the Army should be scrapped and replaced by giving weapons and training to all 30 million British adults. An assault rifle in every home. What could possibly go wrong?

SOMEONE gave me directions this week including: "You go down that road where the old pub used to be." Can there be a single road in England that does not fit that description? We are a land of lost pub.

TO my surprise, I have the support of at least one reader who believes human needs should be given priority over wildlife when it comes to turning Swansea Bay into a vast electricity-generation tidal lagoon. He says: "When the wading birds have waded away, within a few months the new environment will be recolonised with new species which like the new conditions."



local people applauded the unveiling without daring to point out that it doesn't look even vaguely like Cilla.

READERS may be reminded of the celebrated "black Diana," the statue of the princess in black granite and unveiled in 2000. It looks nothing like Princess Diana but bears a passing resemblance to Denis Norden without his specs. It stands outside a funeral directors in Walsall. Unlike the Scousers, Walsall folk have never kidded themselves it's a good likeness. "Democratic," was one Facebook user's opinion.

ROLF Harris is on trial for sex crimes with the jury told on day one of his previous convictions. He is giving evidence via a video link from prison. If one trial can begin with total disclosure, why can't they all? Many are a legal game where everyone in court, except the jury, knows the defendant is a serial villain with a criminal record, but all conspire to pretend it's the first time they've seen him.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Unemployment at lowest for ten years

UNEMPLOYMENT in Dudley followed the national trend with numbers claiming benefits for being out of work down last month.

Across the UK unemployment has plunged to its lowest total for more than a decade but the number in work has also fallen.

The jobless total was 1.6 million in the quarter to November, down by 52,000 on the previous three months

to its lowest since early 2006. In the West Midlands unemployment fell by 7,000 to 161,000, partly due to seasonal recruitment at shops and delivery companies in the run-up to Christmas.

The number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits was down by 35 in Dudley to 5,595.

Dudley's Councillor Hilary Bills

said: "If people are finding jobs that is good news. If it means that they can go on to support themselves and their families then I am happy with that. It's a positive for the region."

Across the West Midlands the count was down by 1,310 to 80,480 with the biggest change in Wolverhampton, where the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits fell to 6,430, down by 135

from November's figure. In Sandwell it was down 40 to 7,075. South Staffordshire saw a fall of 10 to 685 but in Wyre Forest, including Kidderminster, there was a rise of 10 to 740.

The UK now has one of the lowest jobless rates in Europe, at 4.8 per cent, according to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics, but the number in work fell by 9,000 to 31.8 million.

Pedestrian died from head injuries in collision

A CHURCH helper and security guard from Birmingham, who died after being hit by a car in Amblecote, will be a 'massive loss to the community', says his friends.

Hassan "Victor" Darvishvand, 35, who was originally from Iran, was struck by a Toyota Auris in High Street, near the junction with Vicarage Road, at 2.35pm on October 9.

Mr Darvishvand was a popular member of the Jesus Fellowship Church in Newton, Birmingham.

A statement from PC Robin Smalley, from the West Midlands Police collision investigation unit, at Black Country Coroners Court, said: "Braking tests and measurements taken from the skid marks showed that the car was travelling at under 30mph. The driver told police that she didn't see Mr Darvishvand come from her offside."

A witness said that Mr Darvishvand was wearing sunglasses and earphones, which may have impaired his vision and hearing.

His friend Carol Benton said: "He was lovely, very helpful. He was always there to offer support to people."

"I had just seen him buying some watches to send back home which I assume were Christmas presents for his family. There was a few of us there from the church with him when the machine was turned off."

Coroner Zafar Siddique recorded a conclusion of death by traffic collision. He said he would write to police and Highways England to find out if safety measures are required on the road.

Meeting to discuss £1.5m park move

A POTENTIAL £1.5 million cash injection to improve a park will be discussed during a public meeting next week.

The Friends of Stevens Park hope the community asset will be in line for a Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund grant. Dudley Council is working with the group on the bid. The friends group will meet at the White House on Park Road on Tuesday, at 7pm. All members of the local community are welcome.

The second stage is set to be submitted in February next year, once a feasibility study has been developed. If successful, the money could be used for a number of improvements around the park. The community organisation Muddle Together CIC is also working with the council on the bid.

Take part in Resolution Run for stroke charity

THE Stroke Association is inviting people to sign up for a Resolution Run at Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge. There will be choices of five, 10 and 15 kilometre runs on March 5, at 11am. It costs £15 to enter the runs via stroke.org.uk/resolution

Ted's sweet recipes kept tradition alive

By Marion Brennan

HIS boiled sweets had not changed in almost 200 years and, some would tease him, neither had his office.

Ted Gray, who has died aged 81, was famous for sticking to traditional methods of book-keeping and accountancy, as well as sweet-making.

When Edward Gray's of Dudley set up its own website seven years ago, it did not affect the way he worked as he continued to enter orders into enormous handwritten ledgers in his chaotic, paper-strewn office.

Tributes have poured in to the man who, with his sister Betty Guest, ran the business for nearly half a century following the death of their father, also Ted, in the 1960s.

Ted junior had worked at the North Street factory, started by his grandfather, John Gray, in 1826, since he was 15 and continued to drive to the office in his beloved Jag every day until 2012.

His daughter, Julie Healy, 53, said: "He was very proud of the business, especially the herbal tablets. Only certain family members know the recipe. He mixed the ingredients himself to keep it secret.

"He was a very generous man and loved his job. He still had an old-fashioned way of doing things. We only recently got a laptop."

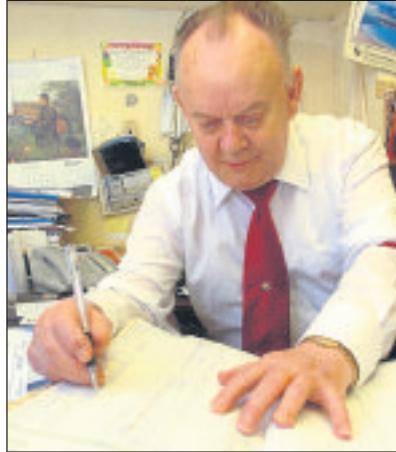
Mr Gray started at the factory as a sugar boiler when he left school, returning after three years' National Service in the RAF, to become a delivery driver, eventually taking over the reins in his 30s with Betty, now 88, who still works at the firm.

Despite being a wealthy man, he remained true to his Black Country roots and loved nothing better in his spare time than playing snooker at the Royal British Legion Club in Hall Street, Dudley. He also enjoyed playing darts.

The father of four died in his sleep after suffering for some years from hydrocephalus, fluid in the brain and had moved to a care home.



Ted Gray with his firm's famous herbal tablets and he was one of very few who knew the secret recipe



No modern technology - Mr Gray with the office ledger



Ted Gray with sister and business partner Betty in the 1990s

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Deaf theatre group has been given charity status

A THEATRE for the deaf and hard of hearing is celebrating after successfully applying to become a registered charity.

Dudley Deaf Theatre grew out of a project to bring performing arts to hearing impaired communities. It is run by members of Dudley Deaf Social Club and Black Country Touring.

After a series of successful shows and workshops, the group decided to set up Dudley Deaf Theatre as a charity in its own right and contacted Dudley Council for Voluntary Service for support.

Now, just a few months later, Dudley Deaf Theatre has been registered as a charity by the Charity Commission.

Trustee Jeff Clarkson said: "We're over the moon to achieve charity status. We're looking forward to the opportunities that being a charity will bring and to staging some brilliant shows that people from the deaf and hard of hearing communities can participate in and enjoy. We're so grateful for the support that Dudley CVS has given to help us achieve our goals."

The group now plans to hold further performing arts workshops for the deaf and hard of hearing communities and to provide accessible shows in the new year.

Dudley CVS is a charity which supports people and organisations in Dudley borough to make a positive difference in the community. It also helps individuals or groups to set up, run and develop voluntary organisations, charities and enterprises.

£125k blueprint to revamp towpaths

A PROJECT encouraging walking and cycling in Dudley is to get a £125,000 boost.

Dudley Council will be improving canal towpaths from Seven Dwellings Bridge to Black Delph Bridge, in Brierley Hill, which links to the National Cycle Network.

It follows work last year costing £460,000 to make similar improvements to towpaths between Kinver Street Basin, in Wordsley, Buckpool Nature Reserve and The Dell Stadium in Pensnett.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are delighted to be involved in these additional improvements to local canal towpaths, which will help people to walk and cycle more often."

Canal trust hold Portal art display

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is planning its first open art exhibition at The Portal, off Birmingham New Road. The closing date for entries is June 30. To find out more call 0121 557 6265.

Former garage boss jailed for sex attack



Sex attacker Robert Parke

A FORMER garage owner has been jailed after admitting to sexually assaulting a client and then intimidating her into dropping the charges against him.

Robert Parke, aged 52, committed the assault on the woman after she bought a car from RP Autos in Brierley Hill, a firm he used to own, in May.

He then continued to harass the woman, even after she reported the assault to police, and forced her to sign a false statement in a bid to get the charges against him dropped.

Parke then tried to evade justice by moving addresses around the country.

His luck ran out after officers placed him on the force's Most Wanted website.

After information was given to police, Parke eventually handed himself in. Parke, from Bromley, Pensnett, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to sexual assault and perverting the course of justice.

Detective Constable Mike Clarke, from West Midlands Police sexual offence team, said: "This man abused his position to prey on a woman who had bought a car from his garage. He then intimidated her and harassed her into dropping the charges.

"Now he has been put behind bars and will be placed on the sex offender register for life. I would like to take the opportunity to commend this woman's bravery in coming forward initially and then throughout the investigation. I hope today's sentence will bring her some comfort as she continues to recover from her ordeal.

Parke was sentenced to four years and four months imprisonment. The sentence included three unconnected counts of sexual activity to which he also pleaded guilty. He was also placed on the sex offenders register for life.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity run at shopping centre

THE first charity fun run to be held at the intu Merry Hill shopping centre is to take place on Sunday.

The run will start from outside the centre's Argos entrance. It is being held by Pure Gym and will start with fun warm-ups and pre-race exercises. People of all ages and abilities are welcome.

Sign-in desks will be located by the Argos entrance on the morning where people can make a donation and receive wristbands. Money raised will go to intu Merry Hill's charity partner Promise Dreams.

Beer festival's boost for charities

DUDLEY Winter Ales Fair saw £1,400 raised for charity. Organisers from Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale sent cheques for £700 each to the Mayor of Dudley's charities appeal and Blind Veterans UK.

Total attendance at the festival was 2,130 over the weekend of November 24 to 26 in Dudley Town Hall, down from 2,390 in 2015. The 31st festival was initially called off but was rescued when Jacqui Edwards came forward to organise the event. The branch signed up 39 new members at the festival.

Zumbathon helps kidney patients

A KEEP fit 'Zumbathon' that took place at Dudley Leisure Centre last month raised £1,200 for the Kidney Patients Association.

Following the event, organised with Russells Hall Hospital staff, the leisure centre team have presented a cheque to nurses at the Dudley hospital's renal unit. The money raised will go towards the upkeep of special holiday homes, which allow patients and their families to have a break with access to essential treatment.

Annie Get Your Gun to be staged at Mill

THE show that brought us the classic show tune There's No Business Like Show Business is being produced in Sedgley.

The Phoenix Theatre Company will be staging Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun at The Mill Theatre, at Dormston School, from February 28 to March 4. Tickets are £10 with evening performances at 7.30pm and Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Email info@phoenixtheatreco.co.uk or call 01902 897520.

Metal detecting talk

THERE will be a talk on metal detecting at the next meeting of Stourbridge Historical Society.

Jim Wall will deliver an illustrated lecture, the Past Beneath Your Feet, to members in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on February 16 at 7.30pm. It costs £3 for visitors.

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Sweet man who put his town on the map

YOU would need a heart of stone not to laugh at Amber Rudd's speech to the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham last year being recorded by West Midlands Police as a 'hate incident'.

Apparently, a professor of physics called Joshua Silver – sounds more like he should be in Pirates of the Caribbean to me – took offence at something the Home Secretary said and called the police. He hadn't actually heard the speech, but we don't what little details like that to get in the way of a bit of pompous virtue signalling, do we?

Anyway, the good news is that the crime rate is obviously so low in the West Midlands that the Old Bill found time to investigate. They concluded that no crime had been committed, which you might think might be the end of the matter, but in the strange world of "hate" legislation it is never that simple. If you're found guilty it's a crime, but if you're innocent it is recorded as a "hate incident".

This sort of thing would normally make me livid. But this is the Home Secretary, the figurehead for the establishment which created all this nonsense. Poetic justice is the phrase which springs to mind.

■ ■ ■

BY the way, the definition of "hate crimes" on a poster in my local library includes "anything that is offensive to your family." I take it mother-in-law jokes are out, then?

■ ■ ■

MANY people in the Black Country will be saddened to hear of the death of Dudley confectioner Ted Gray, aged 81.

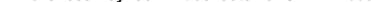
Ted, who worked full time until the age of 76, was one of the old school, a type of businessman you rarely find today. A small, quietly spoken man with a proper Black Country accent, he never had any big ambitions or grandiose expansion plans, he just liked sweets and wanted to carry on his family tradition. His tiny, beautifully chaotic office was stacked high with precarious piles of paper, the walls festooned with sepia pictures chronicling the company's history. He lived within walking distance of the factory.

As a journalist, I remember feeling a sense of frustration at this modest, unassuming man's reluctance to deliver any boastful soundbites that would make my job easier. Teddy Gray's shops were selling the classic sweets in jars long before it became fashionable, and even today there is something unmistakably welcoming about them that the new pretenders can't quite emulate.

It is often hard to explain to outsiders what makes the Black Country special, but this unassuming little man had it in spades.

World famous in Dudley, that's what he was. A proper Black Country man who wouldn't have had it any other way.

Baroness Heyhoe Flint collects her OBE in 2008



With her friend and former Wolves and England boss Graham Taylor



Heyhoe Flint in the World Cup winning year of 73



City ambassador and a sporting trailblazer

As tributes are paid following the death of Baroness Heyhoe Flint, **HEATHER LARGE** looks back on her life and legacy

SHE was known for being a proud Wulfrunian with a heart of gold and a trailblazer for women's sport.

But to her beloved football club, Baroness Heyhoe Flint will always be "Our Rachael – warm, witty, hugely competent and irreplaceable."

As Wolves mourn the loss of their vice-president tributes have flooded in from the world of sport for one of England's finest female cricketers. And there was an outpouring of grief from across Wolverhampton – the city she loved and called home.

Her son Ben says Wolverhampton and Wolves meant everything to the 77-year-old.

"She, the club and the city were intrinsically linked," he said.

Gruelling

Baroness Heyhoe Flint was still a familiar and much-loved face at Molineux up until her recent illness. She was a proud supporter of the club in continuing to take a keen interest in Wolves' charity and community work despite her own gruelling schedule.

"She went to every game when she was a director, home and away, rain or sleet, bottom of the table or top of the table. For 30 years it was the mainstay of her life," added Ben.

Wolves club secretary Richard Skirrow said:

"We have lost a really special lady. I've known her well for over 20 years. You felt you knew her well from the first meeting as she was such a warm and engaging person. Rachael was a bundle of energy, tireless, always on the move and always, it seemed, happy."

"Her many achievements will be well documented and for her charity fundraising alone she should perhaps have been more highly decorated but, at Wolves, she'll just always be our 'Rachael' – warm, witty, hugely competent and irreplaceable."

It was while playing cricket that she became friends with Sir Jack Hayward when he spon-



At the Molineux home of her beloved Wolves, where she served as vice president

Born on June 11 1939 to PE teachers Roma Crocker and Geoffrey Heyhoe, the former Wolverhampton Girls High School pupil excelled at sport from an early age and later taught PE.

She went on to play a pivotal role in developing women's cricket, captaining England during a career which spanned two decades, and leading her country to victory in the 1973 World Cup.

During her first House of Lords speech in 2011, she said: "My challenges in sport began with garden cricket aged seven with my brother and his friends.

"I wasn't allowed to bat for three years because girls don't play cricket. When I did eventually get to bat, the boys couldn't get me out for three days, so in the middle of June they decided it was the football season."

It was while playing cricket that she became friends with Sir Jack Hayward when he spon-

sored the women's team in 1970. Years later she still credited him with playing a major role in providing her with the platform to make a name for herself.

Baroness Heyhoe Flint became the first woman to be admitted to the MCC when her playing career ended and in 2004 she became the first woman elected to the full committee. She later became the first woman to be inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.

Ben added: "Women's cricket was an unknown sport then, and under-funded, which is where her wonderful friendship with Sir Jack Hayward started. There was a lot of bigotry in sport then and she faced real barriers. But she was a trailblazer."

"She applied to the MCC under the radar as R.Flint. As the MCC started to process her application they thought she was a bloke."

"They suddenly realised there was a woman applying. The MCC held a referendum on female members and after a second referendum it got through."

"I was there the day the vote was passed at Lords, it was just amazing. She has been a great role model."

Later Baroness Heyhoe Flint became a successful journalist – working for the Express & Star and as sports editor on the Wolverhampton Chronicle – and an award-winning after dinner speaker.

After Sir Jack took over Wolves in 1990, Baroness Heyhoe Flint became heavily involved in the club's public relations department. From 1997 to 2003 she served as a director at Sir Jack's request, later being made a vice-president.

She was President of the Lady Taverners from 2001 to 2011 and a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands. In 2008 she received her OBE from the Prince of Wales and two years later was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

Honoured

In 2011 she was honoured by her home city by being granted the Freedom of Wolverhampton. She was also inducted into Wolverhampton's Sporting Hall of Fame.

Ben said: "A lot of people had wonderful things to say about her over the years but to me she was just mum. She was a great person, a legend in terms of the simple things like her sportsmanship and the love of her family."

"She was just a giving person, always thinking about other people, not herself. It was almost impossible for me to keep track of everything she was doing."

Huge crowds are expected at Baroness Heyhoe Flint's funeral on February 8. A funeral cortege will leave Molineux at 2pm and make its way to St Peter's Church. Some fans will be able to attend church, but via a ballot. Numbers will be limited due to the amount of people expected to pay their respects.

To apply for a place, email fans@wolves.co.uk with Rachael Heyhoe Flint in the subject line, and include a name, address and supporter number. It will be family flowers only at the funeral.

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Mend this flaw in the law quickly

IN 2015, after more than 50,000 people joined the NSPCC's 'Flaw in the Law' campaign, the Government introduced legislation to arm police with new powers to tackle paedophiles.

It means an adult is breaking the law if they send a sexual communication to an under-16-year-old.

But now – almost two years later – the Government is dragging its feet and the law is yet to be triggered, despite the fact that similar legislation is already proving successful elsewhere in the UK.

Don't be seduced by this special relationship

SO Mike Wood thinks we should back Trump over trade deals!

Why would anyone want to deal with such a hateful, racist, sexist bigot?

Has he, like so many people, been seduced by the so-called 'Special Relationship' that exists between Britain and the USA? If so, think again Mr Wood.

You only have to take note of his inaugural speech: 'America first, America first'. Any special relationship has only ever existed to further US interests.

In addition, Trump is a climate change denier, in fact, he was elected largely on a promise of disregarding all the scientific evidence to the phenomenon.

He brings to mind an earlier madman who was elected in the 1930s on the premise of bringing back jobs and making his country great again – and then left the world in ruins!

ALAN ASHMAN
Sedgley

Is it because many patients often don't turn up for appointments?

Could it be because it has been so long since they booked it they have forgotten it, forgotten or couldn't be bothered to cancel it, got better in the meantime or worse still they have ended up in hospital?

Some of the patients who got better probably didn't need to see a doctor in the first place but it stopped genuine sick people from being able to get an appointment.

I think the appointment system is great for people who need to be organised for work, school, etc, but there are many who could and would be willing to just sit and wait.

I would if I could see a doctor on the ac-

tual day that I feel ill, and not three weeks later.

I know you can ring before 8am for emergency appointment but what exactly constitutes an emergency?

Please, please bring the old system back, if only in part.

It surely would not be so difficult to arrange a duty doctor on a rota basis, a doctor who does not take appointments on that particular day and just sees those walk-in patients.

A closing-off time for patients to go on the list and an understanding that you may have to wait some time would be readily accepted by many.

It would free up appointments for those that want or need them.

Us old ones remember the days when you had no appointments and we had no choice but to wait.

Surely running the two systems side by side would please everyone?

JENNY JAMES
Wordsley

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Trump that – Fizzogs are on the way to USA



Dancing grannies go to the Big Apple – comedy act the Fizzogs will jet across the Atlantic to strut their stuff in New York city

START spreading the news – the Dancing Grannies have decided to have a rest from the Edinburgh Fringe this year and pop over to the Big Apple instead.

The Grannies, also known as Black Country comedy act the Fizzogs, will jet across the pond in the summer to strut their stuff on the streets of New York city.

The move follows numerous requests from American fans who are among more than 300 million people who have viewed the Grannies' dance

routines on social media. Now the Fizzogs are looking for sponsorship to help fund the trip.

Member Deb Nicholls said: "The plan is to take America by storm. We aim to flashmob in New York this summer as the Americans keep asking when we are coming over."

"It'll cost an arm and a leg to get there so we are looking for sponsorship. If there are any potential sponsors out there and you feel The Dancing Grannies need support, then get in touch with us and we'll have a natter."

The Fizzogs have already been booked to perform their routines at

the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix in April. That opportunity arose after the performers caught the eye of a talent scout from the Middle East at the Edinburgh Fringe last summer.

Closer to home their new show, Suck It And See, is currently touring with performances at the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, on February 4;

Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, on February 9, 10 and 11; Core Theatre, Solihull, on March 4; Oakengates Theatre, Telford, on March 10; Atrix Theatre, Bromsgrove, on March 11; and the Swan Theatre, Worcester, on March 24. Email info@thefizzogs.com or for tickets visit www.thefizzogs.com

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Fresh review into Christina's death

A SECOND review into the tragic death of a Halesowen schoolgirl killed by a paranoid schizophrenic is a step closer to being published, following completion of the first draft.

NHS England commissioned the investigation into the death of Christina Edkins two years ago. Christina, aged 16, was fatally stabbed on a bus in Hagley Road, Birmingham, while on her way to Leasowes High School.

She was stabbed in March 2013 by Phillip Simelane, who was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

An initial inquiry by Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group said Christina's death could have been prevented after it emerged Simelane had been released

from prison with no supervision only months before the attack.

The fresh inquiry was launched because of the group's findings and the family's wishes. A spokesman for NHS England said: "A first draft of the investigation report has now been completed and is going through NHS England review and approvals processes. Findings from the investigation will be published in due course."

Drink-driver jailed after causing horrific crash

A DRINK-DRIVER was showing off, driving at more than twice the speed limit when involved in a crash that left two of his passengers with appalling injuries, a judge heard.

Craig Delaney, who had neither insurance nor a valid licence, was estimated to be travelling at 68mph in a 30 zone and on the wrong side of the road when he crashed into a wall, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Impact

The 27-year-old lost control while swerving to miss an oncoming car, clipped the kerb and hurtled into a garden wall with such force the engine was torn out of the gold Vauxhall Corsa. The vehicle then rebounded into the path of another car whose driver, Mark Howl, could not avoid hitting the wreckage in Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said front seat passenger Daniel Priest had his arm out of the window and it was almost severed by the impact with



Craig Delaney escaped serious injury, unlike his two passengers

the low wall. Mr Howl found Delaney had been catapulted into the rear of the Corsa and was lying on top of badly injured Rebecca Burgess. Mr Soulsby added: "She was struggling for breath and Mr Howl pulled the defendant off her, possibly saving her life."

Mr Priest was rushed to hospital

for emergency surgery but doctors could not save his arm. He also had a broken cheek bone, four broken ribs, a punctured lung and lacerated liver. The 26-year-old chef is likely to face life-long pain. Miss Burgess was in intensive care for six days. Delaney was not badly hurt.

Delaney had drunk up to four pints and several shots at a bar with Mr Priest when he linked up with Miss Burgess before going to a pub. Three hours after the crash on December 6, 2015, the defendant gave a blood-alcohol reading of 94 milligrams. The limit is 80.

Mr Simon Hunka, defending, conceded: "He cannot remember what happened in the incident but it must have had something to do with bravado. He made a terrible mistake."

Delaney of Woodcroft Close, Cradley Heath, admitted causing serious injury by dangerous driving, having excess alcohol and not having insurance or licence. He was jailed for two years eight months and banned from driving for six years four months.

Judge Simon Ward said: "I can only conclude from the speed you were doing that you were trying to show off to those in the car in the most dangerous way."

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Window firm goes from strength to strength

Commercial feature

Family run windows specialists DW Windows is celebrating a second decade in business in the Black Country this year.

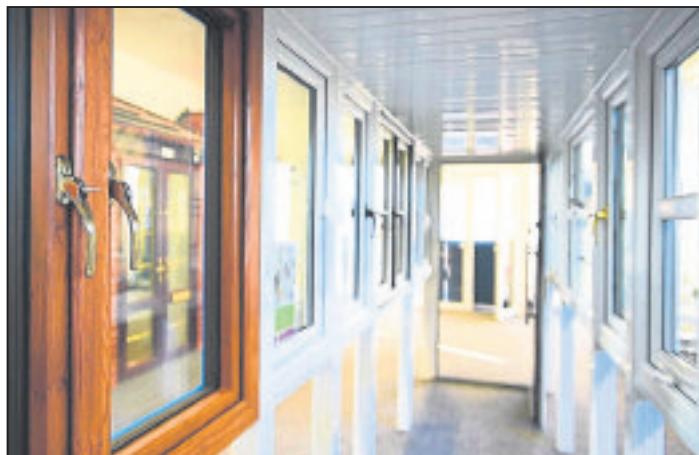
The business has grown steadily since being founded by former firefighter Dave Walters in 2006. It is now run from a head office in Coseley and has two showrooms and employs more than 30 people, including six directly employed fitting teams. DW Windows has moved on way beyond just double glazed windows - of which it offers many different styles and colour profiles, including aluminium - over the first ten years in business, and also offers conservatories, doors, solid tiled conservatory roofs and much more. Company Secretary and Dave's wife, Claire, said that her husband had 25 years' experience in the windows industry and had fitted them for other companies, but realised that he could provide a better service if doing it himself. "We have gone from being one man with a van operating from our home in Wolverhampton, to employing more than 30 people across two sites," she explained.

DW opened its first showroom in Brick Street, Sedgley, in 2010 and last July opened a much bigger 7,300 sq ft showroom and a new head office in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating a further 15 new jobs. A former warehouse was renovated to create one of the largest windows and doors showrooms in the Midlands, along with offices and a warehouse for DW Windows' stock and supplies.

At Coseley, the window, door and conservatory centre, eight conservatories/orangeries, two porches, 27 various doors, three sliding patios, two bi-fold doors, sliding sash windows and many other various



Managing Director Dave Walters advises a customer



Just a few examples of DW Windows' extensive window range

window products are on display as well as more specialist products like the Residence Collection windows, Lumi frameless glazing, aluminium, flush sash windows and also insulated solid tiled conservatory roofing systems. At the Sedgley showroom there are many other windows, doors and conservatory designs on display.

DW Windows specialises in Liniar and Profile 22 uPVC windows and doors and Apeir and Eurocell composite doors.

Claire Walters, who joined her husband in the business in 2013 said that it had grown from a turnover of £180,000 in its first full year to £2.3 million last year. "We have achieved this in spite of going through the height of the economic downturn and uncertainty for the

construction industry. In November 2016 the company was rewarded by becoming finalists in the Black Country Chamber of Commerce awards for customer service and outstanding achievements. Our plan now is to open more showrooms in the West Midlands in the next few years as we continue to grow," she said. The core area of business for DW Windows is the Black Country and surrounding areas of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham. It has also had people come from as far as Yorkshire and Wales who had heard about the standard of the company's work.

Most of DW's business comes from recommendations and the remainder from people calling in to its showrooms and

through its website - www.dwwindows.co.uk - and many people choose to book an appointment from its product advisers at their homes. They can be booked on Freephone 0800 999 0909.

Once a customer has decided on exactly what they want and signed a contract, one of the company's four directly employed surveyors will attend to do a final measure up.

A date is then given for installation and the surveyor will draw up the job, process it and book the fitters in.

For most work, the aim is to complete the work within four weeks of an order, but for bigger jobs like conservatories, dates are given for the completion of each stage.

The team of installers is trained in house to industry standards, with the assistance of an external health and safety consultant. It has CHAS (Construction Health and Safety Scheme) accreditation.

DW Windows, which last year carried out more than 900 installations, always strives to ensure the standards of installations are the highest and there is a strong focus on professionalism, workmanship, customer service and after sales advice. DW customers are insured from the moment they sign the contract and they also get a ten year guarantee on frames and a five year one on glass.

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Thug stabbed dog after it urinated on marijuana

A THUG has been locked up after stabbing his dog repeatedly in the face and then trying to hide the animal from police by hiding her behind a washing machine.

Michael Bailey, of Dale Terrace, Tividale, launched a savage attack on his dog Lucky after she urinated on a bag of marijuana at his home.

The 54-year-old punched and stabbed the animal numerous times in the face. Police were called after the attack was overheard but when they arrived Bailey said that the dog had run off. However, after a search of the house officers discovered the frightened dog had been hidden up behind a washing machine.

Bailey was jailed for 12 weeks for causing unnecessary suffering to the dog. Bailey was sentenced at Birmingham Magistrates' Court after being found guilty in his absence

at the same court in November. As well as the prison sentence, Bailey was disqualified from keeping animals for life and was ordered to pay a £115 victim surcharge over the incident on June 18.

RSPCA inspector Steven Morrall, who investigated, said: "This was a particularly brutal attack on the poor dog. On top of this, she was also very thin as a result of neglect."

Lucky was identified by a police dog legislation officer as a banned breed under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act, and as a result the animal was put down.

Inspector Morrall added: "Lucky had made a full recovery and we were hoping to see her into a new home. The RSPCA do not make these decisions. We do not agree with Breed Specific Legislation and have been campaigning for changes."



Lucky the dog was put down as a banned breed after being mistreated by owner Michael Bailey, of Tividale

Curator had indecent images of children

THE senior curator at the Black Country Living Museum has quit his post after being arrested for possessing and distributing indecent images of children, a court heard.

Dr John Beckerson, aged 42, earned around £40,000 a year as curator at the museum on Tipton Road but called his employer to tell them he would be resigning after his arrest on March 1, 2016.

Police had forced entry to his home on Beechfield Grove, Bilston, in the early hours of the morning. They took two mobile phones and a Dell computer tower.

Subsequent searches found that across his devices he had 20 category A images of children, as well as 47 category B images, and that he had distributed 843 online.

Beckerson pleaded guilty to all three charges at Wolverhampton Crown Court and was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years.



Dr John Beckerson

Prosecuting Miss Fiona Cortese, said: "The defendant said to officers he was a classic lonely man who looked at pictures online but had never touched anybody."

"He also told police that he had used chat rooms to distribute images."

"When he mentioned his job at the museum he told police that this did not put him in regular contact with children and he also added that he had no sexual interest in children."

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, told the court Beckerson had gone over and above what others arrested for similar offences would normally do to help police.

He said: "I don't for one minute argue that these offences are not suitable for a custodial sentence."

Ultra fit take on DirtRun

A 32-MILE running event starting and finishing at Himley Hall is planned for March 12.

The DirtRun Black Country Ultra is in four eight-mile stages and can be tackled by individuals, relay pairs or teams of four. It is being organised by Pulse Pursuits with Dudley and Sandwell councils and the Canal and River Trust.

One of the sections involves running through the nearly two-mile Netherton Canal Tunnel. The route which takes in Wombourne, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, Coseley, Tipton, Netherton, Merry Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett includes stretches on old railway lines, and canal towpaths. The minimum age for runners is 18 on race day.

The race will raise funds for the Mary Stevens Hospice with runners also invited to make a donation to the Canal and River Trust. Visit www.pulsepursuits.co.uk

MP speaks out in Commons over cuts

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has attacked the Government over what he called 'unfair' cuts to the funding of the borough council.

The Labour MP spoke out in Parliament where he said reduction in funding from central government to Dudley Council was having a damaging effect.

The authority has made a series of cuts to services and must save £25 million by 2020. Dudley finance bosses have blamed the drop in funding from Whitehall.

Mr Austin said: "Dudley would be able to do much more on housing if it wasn't having its budgets cut by 20 per cent, compared to one per cent in Surrey and two per cent in Buckinghamshire.

"That's put pressure on a whole range of council services. We've seen libraries close, social services under pressure and, over Christmas, hard-working, low-paid staff in Dudley had to take three days' unpaid leave, effectively a pay cut of one per cent, because of this Government's cuts."

"How can they sit there and tell me that the cuts they have imposed on Dudley are in any way fair?"

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Highgrove outing on the agenda

Wollaston E TWG

CHAIRMAN Julie Willets welcomed members to the January meeting with a hearty 'Happy New Year'. She stated all Christmas activities had been successful, and thanked both the committee, for their efforts in organising the festive party, and the choir for their participation in the carol services.

The chairman suggested any long-serving members should come forward for recognition and appreciation.

Sub-section reports followed, and names were taken for lunch at Birmingham College of Food. Trips to Highgrove and Haden Hill are to be confirmed. Jill Dunn reported that the floral art group would plan this year's programme at their next meeting, while the Amblers would not meet during January and February - but would resume their activities when hopefully better weather prevailed.

The speaker was Dave Tyler, Dudley councillor for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath ward. He gave a very interesting talk on his findings regarding his family tree dating back to the 1700s.

Apparently, earlier family members began life in the workhouse, hence the title of his talk - 'Workhouse to Council House'.

Competition winners were Glenys Allen and Elizabeth Grove and raffle prizes went to Brenda Atkin and Barbara Homer.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on February 14 at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston.

Nostalgic mystery tour of Midlands

Collection cash goes to Acorns

Kingswinford TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennell opened the January meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Among the items of business she reminded members that the annual subscriptions were now due and that volunteers for the committee for the forthcoming year were required.

The contributions for charity in lieu of Christmas cards totalled just over £57, while £71 was collected at the November meeting in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice. It was, agreed that both sums should go to Acorns.

Brenda Greenaway provided a lovely floral arrangement to brighten the room which reminded everyone that spring would be here soon. Josie Smith offered to wash up.

Scrabble group, Wednesday club, rambling group and luncheons clubs all made plans for the next few weeks.

The speaker was Mary Bodfish who spoke about Mad Dogs and Mary Marten, a wide ranging talk about a particular period in history.

The next group meeting will be on February 13 when Alan Peace will speak about working with animals and children. Non-members will be welcome as usual.

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones was delighted that 30 members and one visitor had braved the particularly cold and snowy weather to attend the January meeting at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley.

She wished everyone a healthy and happy new year and looked forward to seeing not only regular members but hopefully lots of visitors to see what a friendly club it is.

The traditional hot three-course lunch was once again excellent, followed by speaker Ian Bott who delighted everyone with a nostalgic mystery tour of the Midlands. It began in 1960 with a charabanc setting off from St Luke's Church, Wednesfield, and then a whistle stop journey visiting Lichfield, Shugborough, Biddulph Grange, various castles, the Black and White trail through Herefordshire and lovely Shropshire countryside illustrating just how beautiful the Midlands really is.

The next luncheon would be on Friday, February 10 at The Lodge which would include the AGM followed by speaker Bob Broadfield and his involvement with showbusiness. March should be quite lively with entertainment by a ukulele group. For more information on the club, call the secretary on 01902 372984 or email maryjones30@sky.com

Talk on how to grow in new year

Black Country Fuchsia Society

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Way into work or education

YOUNG adults are being offered the chance to take part in a free programme that will help them get into education and work.

The project, run by Black Country Impact, is offering 16 to 29-year-olds a tailored programme which includes providing a key worker or mentor to help them. Dudley Council is leading the project and funding is from the EU's European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "Since the Black Country Impact formally launched last year it has been busy building relationships with local employers, training providers and educators and is delighted to announce that hundreds of young adults are already having a difference made to their lives. I would strongly encourage both local businesses and 16 to 29 year olds across the Black Country to get involved."

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bcimpact or call (01384) 813975.

Child abuse video pervert is jailed for repeat offence after police raid home

A PERVERT who kept thousands of pictures and videos of child abuse has been jailed – five years after avoiding prison for a similar offence.

Paul Fellows, aged 39, had been previously caught keeping abuse pictures in 2012 and received a three-year community order.

Fellows continued to download and view abuse even as he attended courses designed to stop him doing so, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He was found with indecent images when police raided his home in Ash Road, Dudley on June 30, 2016.

Hundreds of those were of the worst sexual abuse, classified as category A.

Police had traced an internet provider address viewing abuse to Fellows' home. Just moments before officers went to arrest him, Fellows threw a hard drive out of a window. Loaded with illegal images and still warm to the touch, police said it had clearly been used moments before their arrival.

Online

He was also found to be using file sharing software which could have distributed more pictures online.

Fellows was found to be in possession of 102 pictures and 194 videos classed as category A.

A further 201 pictures and 345 videos were marked as category B. An additional 3,699 pictures and 29 videos were classed as category C. That was a total of 4,570 indecent images and videos.

For Fellows, Miss Nicole Steers said he was suffering from significant health problems, including Crohn's disease.

Miss Steers said Fellows was a keen computer gamer Fellows and 'appears to be a social recluse' who was living in a 'world of internet.' She added that he regularly wore a motorcycle helmet around people so he did not need to show his face.

Police requested that Fellows be banned from keeping any electronic device with a

capacity greater than 32GB but Miss Steers said that he feared using such limited devices would curtail his computer gaming hobby.

Recorder Miles Watkins increased that capacity to 64GB and said if that stopped Fellows having fun on a computer then 'he has only himself to blame.'

He told Fellows: 'You were found to have a number of computers and hard drives and a significant volume of material, indecent material. Videos and pictures of children were found.'

Fellows was jailed for two years and eight months. He had earlier admitted three counts of distributing child pornography and a further three of possessing child pornography images.

Statue repairs to take weeks



The Billy Wright Statue outside Molineux was badly damaged when hit by a car

WORK to repair the Billy Wright statue, which was badly damaged after being hit by a car, will not start for around a month.

The full extent of the damage has still to be assessed and the repairs approved by the insurers before the work can begin, Wolves said last week.

The publicly-funded £50,000 monument to the England and Wolves hero stands outside Molineux stadium on Waterloo Road.

A car collided with the statue in the early hours of January 15. Wolves spokesman Paul Berry said: "That process is unlikely to start for at least a month. All the debris and slate has now been removed, so the statue is looking a lot tidier and we are all looking forward to seeing it returned to its former glory."

The club is keeping the Wright family updated about the restoration work, he added.

Mortgage business is up at building society

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society's mortgage completions were up £14.5 million last year.

Its mortgage team said the housing loans were up from £52.07m in 2015 to £66.58m – an increase of almost 28 per cent. The society's mortgage applications were also up £21.18m to £92.94m, a steep rise of close on 30 per cent.

Richard Newton, the Tipton's chief executive, said: "A wide range of products and a sensible approach to lending have helped buoy mortgage completion and application figures."

"We've worked hard over the past 12 months to widen our mortgage range and we remain committed to individually assessing all applications – factors which have both contributed to these upbeat figures."

"I'm pleased that our mortgage business achieved such success last year and I'm confident that these results will set the scene for 2017 and beyond."

Hair-raising fundraiser

A 12-year-old from Wordsley has had 12 inches cut off her hair for charity after she lost both of her grandads to cancer.

Cydnee Voice donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment.

Cydnee raised £300 for the charity. Her mother, Donna Voice, said: "I'm extremely proud of her." Visit www.littleprincesses.org.uk

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Motorist who knocked down police officer is sent to prison

A DRIVER who knocked down an officer while fleeing from police has been sentenced to 17 months in prison.

The 26-year-old motorist, Mohammed Asim, of Queens Cross, Dudley, had neither insurance nor licence when he was spotted at the wheel of a silver VW Golf in a car park by officers on foot patrol.

The two uniformed officers – both wearing high visibility jackets – thought he was acting suspiciously at Southall Lane, Dudley, at about 3.30pm on August 16 and went to investigate. Asim tried to drive away but his path was blocked by a vehicle coming into the car park.

Mr John Evans, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "The defendant reversed at speed, crashing into a skip. One of the officers smashed the driver's side window with a baton in an effort to stop the vehicle as it accelerated towards the exit." The Golf struck Pc Alan Hands before speeding through a red light. The officer was knocked off his feet, suffering leg injuries and was off work for three weeks.

Asim's former girlfriend, Naila Yasmeen, 34, also ended up behind bars for a year after trying to cover up the crime.

Fingerprints

The car was registered to Yasmeen, who was out when police visited her home, but she reported the Golf as stolen soon after. She and her Asim both named someone else as the driver. But father-of-three Asim's fingerprints were on the vehicle.

He waited until the day of trial before pleading guilty to dangerous driving, assault and having neither insurance nor a driving licence. Yasmeen admitted letting him and another person borrow the car and pleaded guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Carl Templar-Vasey, defending Asim, said: "He acted on impulse without concern for others but did not deliberately drive at the officers." Miss Alisha Harris, for Yasmeen, of Highfield Road, Sattley, said her client had ended her relationship with Asim. Recorder Jason MacAdam jailed the pair, who each had previous convictions, and said: "It was only by chance that Pc Hands was not more seriously injured."



Mohammed Asim – driver



Naila Yasmeen – lied about car

New museum plans revealed at Archives



Annette Templar and Jane Lamine show off the plans for the displays

PLANS for the future of Dudley museum and art collections were unveiled at drop-in information sessions.

The old museum and gallery on St James's Road was closed by the cash-strapped borough council in December after more than 100 years as the town's landmark museum and art gallery, despite a 4,000 signature petition calling for it to be retained. Four staff lost their jobs.

A series of open days were held last week at the borough's modern Archives building, on Tipton Road, where the museum's exhibits are to be stored and displayed.

The event gave people the chance to look at floor plans and layout for the borough's collections.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The collections enjoyed many happy years at the old building but these proposals are about building something sustainable for the future. We are planning to celebrate this borough's unique and fascinating history."

The collections are currently being packed away and will be moved to the new site over the next few months, while the new museum will open in the autumn. Items on loan from the Duncan Edwards collection, which Manchester United have been negotiating to buy from the family, could also go on show at the Archives.

Council chiefs said the new museum will be 'at the heart of the town's "tourism hub" beside the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo and Castle.'

The former building is now intended for staff training and conferences.

Drug abuse led to gamer's death at 41

A DRUG user died after his substance abuse led to congestion in his airways.

Jaspal Gill, 41, was discovered by his parents at the family home in Bristol Road, Netherton on October 10.

Mr Gill had been asleep after a late night of playing computer games, but when his father checked on him the next afternoon he was unresponsive.

Cannabis, cocaine, anti-depressants and alcohol were found in his body. The drugs or alcohol found in his system weren't at a dangerous level but previous substance abuse had caused his airways to close up.

A pathologist's report said: "The patient was found deceased at home. He had not been ill recently. He used to drink heavily but not recently. He was playing computer games until about 3 or 4am. He normally got up at 2pm or 3pm but he hadn't got up on this occasion. He was unresponsive. An ambulance was called but he was pronounced dead."

His blood was sent for toxicology tests. The results revealed the drugs and alcohol that was found in his system were not at a potential fatal dosage. But his airways and lungs were congested as a result of previous drug abuse.

Zafar Siddique, senior coroner for the Black Country, recorded a conclusion of a drug-related death.

Can you ride tandem? If so, Beacon need you

TANDEM cycling volunteers are being sought by a Dudley-based sight-loss charity.

The Beacon Centre launched the tandem club last year to help people living with sight loss experience cycling. But the club, which meets every other Tuesday, is short of experienced and confident cyclists to be the front riders.

To find out more email tjukes@beaconvision.org or call 01902 880 111.



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Friends and family raise cash for Angela's funeral



Holding a photo of their mother, Shani Smith and Chris Dalloway, with organisers Janice Williams and Leanne Room

FAMILY and friends of a Dudley woman who died suddenly just before Christmas have raised more than £3,500 towards her funeral.

As part of the fundraising efforts for Angela Smith, who died aged 47 from organ failure, the group held a day of fundraising events at Wrens Nest Community Centre on Summer Road.

Janice Williams, 50, of the Wrens Nest estate where Angela lived all her life, was best friend of the mother-of-six and has been leading the fundrais-

ing efforts. She said: "We have raised more than £3,500 now, so we are getting there. We need about another £900 to reach our goal."

"We want to give her the send-off her children want and that she deserves, but it's not cheap. She died suddenly and young so there was no insurance."

"The Wrens Nest estate have been brilliant in helping to raise the money. The community centre gave us free use of their hall."

She added: "It happened just weeks before Christmas. She was a lovely woman. I had known her for 34 years."



Angela pictured at her graduation

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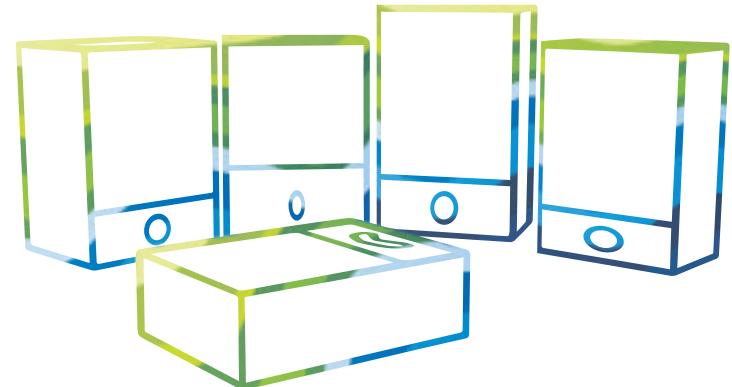
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Strictly fabulous and a perfect 10

REVIEW

Strictly Come Dancing – The Live Tour, Barclaycard Arena FAB-U-LOUS. Well what else would you expect from the 10th anniversary of the Strictly Come Dancing live tour – definitely a 10 out of 10.

Only shock of the night at this glittering first night at the packed Barclaycard Arena was that the reigning champion Ore Oduba, who scored top marks for both his routines, did not even make the final two.

That was left to Danny Mac and Louise Redknapp, but Danny stole it on the night. I think, as it was the audience that was voting, the sight of his bare chest during his samba clinched it for the mostly female audience.

Louise would have been a far more worthy winner with her two stunning routines, the cowboy-style quickstep and the fierce and passionate paso doble.

Cheers

But the award for entertainment had to go to Ed Balls. He was as usual bottom of the leaderboard but that did not seem to matter to the many who cheered him on at every step.

He stole the night with his Gangnam-style routine and brought huge cheers when he managed the lift he so spectacularly failed to do in the TV series. Signs of relief all round.

For sheer energy and enthusiasm, at the age of 71, full marks to Lesley, Joseph who was giving her 'toyboy' professional a run for his money.

Lighting up the stage Daisy Lowe, who said that she had danced every day since the TV series finished, called it the 'best experience of her life'.



The Strictly Come Dancing Live tour performers and professionals



Host Anita Rani, a series quarter finalist



Ed Balls and partner Katya Jones

call twirling her way into the quarter finals in 2015.

With two awards on the horizon, one for the TV show and the other for head judge Len, this glittering show continues to have the star factor.

Long may they keep on dancing.

Sue Attwater

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Side by side - two Handley Page bombers at Le Bourget



Charles Wallbank in his 1914 Humber behind his house



Charles's colleagues in front of a Spad fighter



Charles, second left, in front of a wartime RE.8



French locals examining a crashed plane

When communication by air really took off

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

IN January 1919 the RAF's No 2 Squadron began flights from London's Croydon Airport to Le Bourget, Paris, ferrying delegates and mail to the Peace Conference at Versailles.

For the first time ever aviation played a part in international diplomacy, and the value of air travel was established. One of the mechanics keeping the planes in the air at Le Bourget was Charles Wallbank from Park Village, Wolverhampton.

He had served in the war as a mechanic, in a squadron operating RE.8 reconnaissance aircraft.

Then, at war's end, found

himself posted to Le Bourget to look after the huge numbers of aircraft involved, which featured the largest British aircraft then in service, the Handley Page O/400 heavy bomber, serving as a transport.

Quicker

Rarely have so many been seen on an airfield at any one time, and many of them had been built by the Birmingham & Midland Carriage Co. in Smethwick.

It was a long way from the utilitarian interior of a wood and fabric bomber to the likes of Air Force One, but commun-

ications were so much quicker by air, than by trains and cross-channel ferry.

The operation proved the worth of what was to become the premier international air route, and established air travel as a feature of modern life.

After the war Charles came home to live at Glenmore, 144 Cannock Road and used his skills to become a racing driver.

In 1925 he found a 1914 4-cylinder 3,458cc Humber in Folkestone, and brought it home to refurbish it. In 1929 he actually won a race in it at the famous Brooklands racing circuit. Motor racing was not his only pastime, however, in the loft over the garage at the rear of his house he bred lop-eared rabbits.



An amazing total of 21 Handley Page bombers at Le Bourget

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40's THEME MYSTERY - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	SOLD OUT	Monday 13th - Friday 17th February 2017 3 DAYS
TORQUAY - MARQUIS HOTEL - Winter Warmer NEW	Monday 27th Feb - Friday 3rd March 2017 5 DAYS	
LLANDUDNO - ST KILDA HOTEL *** Showtime Ca	SOLD OUT	day 6th - Friday 10th March 2017 5 DAYS
MOTOWN WEEKEND - TORQUAY NETHWAY HOTEL	Friday 10th March 2017 3 DAYS	
EASTBOURNE - HADDON HALL	Monday 13th - Friday 17th March 2017 5 DAYS	
SPRING WEEKEND MYSTERY?? - WHERE WILL WE BE? SOLD OUT	Friday 17th - Monday 20th March 2017 4 DAYS	
EXMOUGH - CAVENISH HOTEL	Monday 20th - Friday 24th March 2017 5 DAYS	
ILFRACOMBE - IMPERIAL HOTEL***	Monday 27th - Friday 30th March 2017 5 DAYS	
MYSTERY 4 DAY TOUR - WHERE WILL WE BE? H SOLD OUT	March - Monday 3rd April 2017 4 DAYS	
ISLE OF WIGHT - BAYSHORE HOTEL NEW	Monday 3rd - Friday 7th April 2017 5 DAYS	
TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL	Monday 10th - Friday 14th April 2017 5 DAYS	
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL EASTER	Friday 14th - April 2017 4 DAYS	
WARNERS CORTON COASTAL VILLAGE NEW	Easter Week Monday 17th - Friday 21st April 2017 5 DAYS	
WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL	Easter Week Monday 17th - Friday 21st April 2017 5 DAYS	
PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE	Monday 17th - Friday 21st April 2017 5 DAYS	
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? H SOLD OUT	Friday 21st April 2017 2 DAYS	
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	Monday 1st - Friday 5th May 2017 5 DAYS	
GREAT YARMOUTH - NEW BEACH HOTEL NEW	Wednesday 3rd - Sunday 7th May 2017 5 DAYS	
ST IVES - COTTAGE HOTEL NEW	Sunday 7th - Friday 12th May 2017 6 DAYS	
HAYLING ISLAND - MII Rythe Holiday Village NEW	Monday 8th - Friday 12th May 2017 5 DAYS	
LYTHAM ST ANNES - LINDUM HOTEL	Monday 15th - Friday 19th May 2017 5 DAYS	
BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER	Friday 19th - Sunday 21st May 2017 3 DAYS	
MORECAMBE & THE LAKES - AUCKLAND HOTEL	Monday 22nd - Friday 26th May 2017 5 DAYS	
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 27th - Sunday 28th May 2017 2 DAYS	
BOURNEMOUTH - ULLSWATER HOTEL	Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2017 5 DAYS	
ISLE OF WIGHT - THE TROUVILLE HOTEL	SANDOWN Tuesday 30th May - Sunday 4th June 2017 6 DAYS	
PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE	Saturday 3rd - Saturday 10th June 2017 8 DAYS	
EASTBOURNE - THE HADLEIGH HOTEL	Monday 5th - Friday 9th June 2017 5 DAYS	
WESTON-SUPER-MARE - SANDRINGHAM HOTEL	Monday 12th - Friday 16th June 2017 5 DAYS	
BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER	Tuesday 13th - Saturday 17th June 2017 5 DAYS	
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th June 2017 2 DAYS	
SCARBOROUGH - RED LEA HOTEL	Monday 19th - Friday 23rd June 2017 5 DAYS	
SIDMOUTH - THE BEDFORD HOTEL NEW	Friday 23rd - Tuesday 27th June 2017 5 DAYS	
LONDON - 5 STAR WALDORF HOTEL ****	Sunday 25th - Monday 26th June 2017 TREAT YOURSELF!	
SCOTLAND - DUNOON - THE ESPLANADE HOTEL	Sunday 25th - Friday 30th June 2017 6 DAYS	
EASTBOURNE - HADDON HALL	Saturday 1st - Saturday 8th July 2017 8 DAYS	
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL MOTOWN WEEKEND	Friday 7th - Sunday 9th July 2017 3 DAYS	
ISLE OF WIGHT - THE SHANKLIN HOTEL NEW	Wednesday 12th - Sunday 16th July 2017 5 DAYS	
LLANDUDNO - QUEENS HOTEL	Monday 17th - Friday 21st July 2017 5 DAYS	
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	Saturday 22nd - Saturday 26th July 2017 5 DAYS	
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th July 2017 2 DAYS	
ILFRACOMBE - IMPERIAL HOTEL***	Sunday 30th July - Friday 4th August 2017 6 DAYS	
WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL	Sunday 6th - Saturday 12th August 2017 7 DAYS	

MORECAMBE - Carlisle/Sefton Railway & Scottish Borders	AUCKLAND HOTEL - Monday 14th - Friday 18th August 2017 5 DAYS	\$279
TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL	SUNDAY 20th - Friday 25th August 2017 6 DAYS	\$339
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th August 2017 2 DAYS	\$79
ISLE OF WIGHT - THE TROUVILLE HOTEL	SANDOWN Tuesday 29th Aug - Saturday 2nd September 2017 5 DAYS	\$319
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd September 2017 3 DAYS	\$115
EASTBOURNE - LANGHAM HOTEL	NEW Monday 4th - Friday 8th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$299
LYTHAM ST ANNES - LINDUM HOTEL	Monday 4th - Friday 8th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$279
WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL	Monday 11th - Friday 15th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$299
SEKNEGNESS - SAVOY HOTEL	Monday 11th - Friday 15th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$299
BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER	Sunday 17th - Thursday 21st September 2017 5 DAYS	\$279
LLANDUDNO - THE MARLBOROUGH HOTEL	MONDAY 18th - Friday 22nd September 2017 5 DAYS	\$299
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th September 2017 2 DAYS	\$79
WESTON-SUPER-MARE - SANDRINGHAM HOTEL	MONDAY 25th - Friday 29th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$239
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	MONDAY 25th - Friday 29th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$245
BOGNOR REGIS - ROYAL NORFOLK HOTEL	Saturday 30th Sept - Wednesday 4th October 2017 5 DAYS	\$225
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	MOTOWN WEEKEND Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October 2017 3 DAYS	\$115
NEWQUAY - ELIOT HOTEL	Sunday 8th - Friday 13th October 2017 6 DAYS	\$269
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th September 2017 2 DAYS	\$79
WESTON-SUPER-MARE - SANDRINGHAM HOTEL	MONDAY 25th - Friday 29th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$239
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	MONDAY 25th - Friday 29th September 2017 5 DAYS	\$245
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TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	MOTOWN WEEKEND Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October 2017 3 DAYS	\$115
NEWQUAY - ELIOT HOTEL	Sunday 8th - Friday 13th October 2017 6 DAYS	\$269
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th October 2017 2 DAYS	\$79
BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS - CARN-BRAE HOTEL	MONDAY 16th - Friday 20th October 2017 5 DAYS	\$229
BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS - CARN-BRAE HOTEL	Saturday 21st - Monday 23rd October 2017 3 DAYS	\$149
LONDON - 5 STAR WALDORF HOTEL*****	TREAT YOURSELF! Sunday 22nd - Monday 23rd October 2017 2 DAYS	\$115
WARNERS - BODELYWYDDAN CASTLE	NEW Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2017 5 DAYS	\$335
PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE	Turkey & Tinsel Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2017 5 DAYS	\$239
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th November 2017 3 DAYS	\$119
BOURNEMOUTH - ULLSWATER HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Monday 6th - Friday 10th November 2017 5 DAYS	\$275
LYTHAM ST ANNES - ASHTON PARK HOTEL	NEW Turkey & Tinsel Monday 6th - Friday 10th November 2017 5 DAYS	\$259
MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th November 2017 2 DAYS	\$79
SIDMOUTH - ROYAL YORK & PAULKNER HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Sunday 12th - Thursday 16th November 2017 5 DAYS	\$299
EXMOUTH - CAVENISH HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Friday 17th November 2017 5 DAYS	\$259
EASTBOURNE - HADDON HALL HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Monday 20th - Friday 24th November 2017 5 DAYS	\$290
TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Monday 20th - Friday 24th November 2017 5 DAYS	\$279
MYSTERY TURKEY & TINSEL - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Friday 24th - Monday 27th November 2017 4 DAYS	\$139
LLANDUDNO - ST KILDA HOTEL ***	Turkey & Tinsel Monday 27th Nov - Friday 1st December 2017 5 DAYS	\$275
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	Turkey & Tinsel Monday 27th Nov - Friday 1st December 2017 5 DAYS	\$239
THURSFORD SPECTACULAR - NEW BEACH HOTEL	Friday 8th December 2017 4 DAYS	\$249
CROMER - HOTEL DE PARIS	THURSFORD SPECTACULAR - SOLD OUT Monday 11th December 2017 4 DAYS	\$249
LONDON - 5 STAR WALDORF HOTEL ****	CHRISTMAS SHOPPING Sunday 17th - Monday 18th December 2017 2 DAYS	\$115
BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER	CHRISTMAS Saturday 23rd - Wednesday 27th Dec 2017 5 DAYS	\$425
ILFRACOMBE - IMPERIAL HOTEL	CHRISTMAS Saturday 23rd - Wednesday 27th Dec 2017 5 DAYS	\$425
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	TWIXMAS Wednesday 20th Dec 2017 4 DAYS	\$169
BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER	TWIXMAS Wednesday 27th - Saturday 30th Dec 2017 4 DAYS	\$169
LLANDUDNO - ST KILDA HOTEL	Saturday 30th Dec 2017 - Tuesday 2nd Jan 2018 4 DAYS	\$379
TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL	Saturday 30th Dec 2017 - Tuesday 2nd Jan 2018 4 DAYS	\$339
BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER	Saturday 30th Dec 2017 - Tuesday 2nd Jan 2018 4 DAYS	\$299

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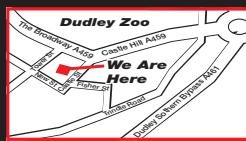
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Castle & Crystal is an ethical, not-for-profit alternative to banks and other financial institutes, allowing people within the local community to save and borrow money whilst keeping money circulating within the local area.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "This latest launch from Castle & Crystal should bring great benefits to local people who are looking at buying a brand new car. This is an ethical alternative to car finance that you find on the high street and aims to make owning a new vehicle far more affordable."

For full details about the Credit Union Car Club or to sign up for an account call 01384 815771 or visit the branch at 25 New Street, Dudley or visit www.castleandcrystal.co.uk

If the cold snap hits who you gonna call? Snow Busters!

Volunteer and community led groups can collect free equipment to help clear snow in Dudley borough under a new Dudley Council scheme.

Council bosses have announced they will provide local groups with shovels, salt spreaders, high-visibility vests, bags of special salt and advice on snow clearing, under the new 'Snow Busters' initiative.

The news comes as weather forecasters fear a cold snap is likely over the coming weeks.

Dudley Council has a team of 40 gritters who work in shifts around the clock to monitor the weather for any expected plunge in temperatures or snowfall and help to keep almost 300 miles of roads clear. It is hoped the 'Snow Busters' scheme will help groups to clear pathways, pavements and pedestrian areas during periods of bad weather and heavy snowfall in order to reach and support vulnerable people.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "It's very important that we keep the borough moving in times of inclement weather, which is why the council works around the clock to grit the network and clear snow during cold snaps.

"We are hopeful that the work of volunteer groups as part of our new 'Snow Busters' scheme will help to complement this by reaching vulnerable people."

Dudley Council's Weather Watch



Mick Flavell (Dudley Council highways operative), Helen Langley (Dudley Council winter warmth co-ordinator), Dudley Coffee House Manager Tommy Dale and Associate Pastor Ryan Baker-Barnes

page can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk

The website is packed full of key information including gritting routes, school closures, bin collections and council services affected by the weather.

People are also able to get the

latest updates via twitter by following #WMGrit, on facebook or by signing up to the council's popular ebulletin service by emailing their postcode to community.council@dudley.gov.uk

People who are interested in volunteering for the 'Snow Busters' scheme can contact the council's winter warmth service to get their kit by calling 01384 817086.

Payment system boost

Dudley Council's online payment system will be unavailable for a short period in late February to allow for an essential upgrade to be completed.

The council will be working on the web-based system to ensure it continues to meet the latest security standards as well as making it even quicker and easier for customers to make payments online.

It means that all council online related payment systems will be unavailable from 7.45pm on Tuesday, February 21 until 11.59pm on Thursday, February 23 at the latest. Advance notices are being displayed on relevant systems, with the main impact being felt with the unavailability of the automated payment telephone system, online payments via the council website, and payments made via Dudley Council staff.

One of the key benefits is the introduction of a new internet payments facility that customers will be able to use on mobile devices. The improved system also brings with it improved security and the familiar screen layout of other online retailers.

Councillor David Sparks, Dudley Council's cabinet member for finance and legal services, said: "We are making online payments even more secure, quicker and easier.

"I would advise residents who use the affected services to make alternative arrangements to make their payments either before or after the upgrade takes place."

Anyone who further information should contact Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

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Park in line for cash boost

A Quarry Bank park could be in line for a £1.5m cash boost thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund grant.

Dudley Council is working with Friends of Stevens Park and other community groups to progress the bid for Stevens Park, which has passed initial stages and has been awarded a development grant to progress the second stage bid.

The second stage is set to be submitted in February 2018, after the feasibility plans have been developed for the project. This will be the third successive park improvement project in Dudley borough after the successful completion of restoration projects at Priory Park and Mary Stevens Park.

If successful at round two, the money could be used to make a number of improvements including the restoration of the Whitehouse building on Park Road, to include a community cafe and community meeting space, as well as work to the park's bandstand and entrance features. It would also pay for the development of a horticultural training project, heritage interpretation around the area, path improvements, bio-diversity improvements and school and community activities.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are thrilled that the first stage of our bid has been successful and we will be working closely with the friends and other community groups to progress it further."

"Dudley Council is committed to maintaining our valuable parks and green spaces and this injection of cash would certainly help us to preserve and restore the much-loved aspects of Stevens Park."

Plenty to see and do

There is plenty to see and do for people of all ages in Dudley.

Visitors have the perfect opportunity to step back in time at the Black Country Living Museum.

Experience the authentic sights, sounds, smells and tastes from the past and meet the costumed characters in the original shops, houses and workshops.

Tuck into traditional Hobbs fish and chips or sample a pint of beer in the Bottle and Glass Inn.

Discover the art of legging inside Dudley Canal Tunnel at Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines.

Experience the 45-minute skipper guided tour into the fantastic limestone mines. Watch the light spectacular show and the audio visual display inside the caverns.

Explore the Portal Building gift shop and educational interpretation. Visit the 'Gongoozler' restaurant, offering canal side food and drink from coffee and cake to a full evening meal.

Get up close and personal with lions and tigers, snakes and spiders at Dudley Zoological Gardens, celebrating its 80th birthday this year. Visit the UK's largest colony of Humboldt's in Penguin Bay. And if you fancy becoming a 'Zookeeper for a Day' there are fun-filled 'Zookeeper Day Experiences' available that will create a lasting memory.

Stourbridge has been home to glassmaking for more than 400 years. Explore the Stourbridge Glass Quarter and watch the art of glass blowing, marvel at the 100ft Red House Glass Cone, one of only four left in the UK. Why not enjoy browsing around the craft studios and gift shop on site and try a homemade cake and hot chocolate



Step back in time at Black Country Living Museum

in the Red Cone Coffee House whilst you're there. Craft activity sessions are available for people of all ages.

Have your own bespoke piece of glass made at Ruskin Glass Centre and wander around the plentiful craft studios on site and taste the appetising selection of hot and cold foods in the organic cafe whilst you are there. Webb Corbett Visitor Centre offers free heritage tours and

a chance for you to learn about the history of glassmaking in the area and you can purchase a range of beautiful handmade lead crystal glass at Tudor Crystall. Entrance to the Glass Quarter attractions is free of charge and free car parking is also available.

Himley Hall and Park offers an 'Indulgent Afternoon Tea' experience not to be missed with

a delectable selection of finger sandwiches to light bite cakes and a scone with jam and cream. People can also join one of the many special events in the park taking place throughout the year.

Dudley Archives and Local History Service boasts fantastic collections, parish records, historic photographs and plans bringing to life family history and much more.

The Lace Guild in Stourbridge is a small museum with a large collection of more than 15,000 items and is dedicated to lace and lace making.

Themed displays of lace are changed every few months and demonstrations of handmade lace making are on offer.

Dudley libraries include the loan of books, e books plus numerous other services including a programme of events and activities throughout the year.

There are four magnificent and historic town halls in the borough showcasing Dudley's Entertainment Live! – a programme of top quality performances with a variety of comedy, music and theatre to appeal to all tastes. The halls can be hired for weddings and special occasions too.

With 16 miles of navigable canals, seven local nature reserves and one national nature reserve and a number of local parks offering a range of walks, events and activities; whatever you decide to do there is plenty to keep you busy.

There is so much to see and do in the borough Dudley really does offer an exciting mix of visitor attractions, entertainment and events throughout the year. For details of things to see and do visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk

Living in Dudley

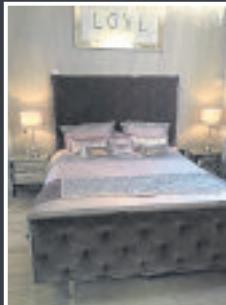
Society returns with exhibition

The Brierley Hill Society of Artists has returned to the Red House Glass Cone with its annual exhibition.

The exhibition which runs until March 12 features a range of pieces including watercolours, oils, pastels, acrylics and lithographs. Work includes local and country scenes, portraits, still life and life drawing. All work is for sale. Items include prints and framed items, all of which are reasonably priced with pieces available at £10 upwards. It is a bumper year this year, with staff at the cone having to get more wracking in for the display space due to the sheer number of paintings, with a large increase in the number of unframed paintings too. There are 100 framed prints on display, plus 80 unframed paintings and a total of 24 painters represented.

Pieces include the brightly coloured and Potting Shed, a watercolour by E Skidmore which lifts the spirits with its informal setting; Bamford Walk, with its fields of sheep munching on green grass by Steve Millward whose gloss on polycarbonate technique is redolent of a lino print. There is also a small children's exhibition and the group hopes that this will grow as more younger members join the group.

The Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley, is open 10am – 3pm Monday to Friday and 11am – 4pm at the weekends. Admission is free.



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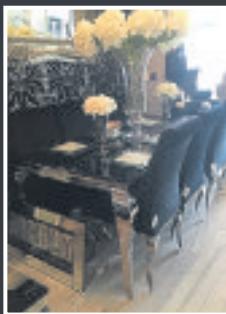
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Living in Dudley

Discover park with new app

You can now discover Priory Park with a new app.

The app enables people to explore the history of the park, just a five minute walk from Dudley town centre, with a guide to the priory ruins and a timeline of the park from the 12th century to the present day.

- Features of the app include a GPS visitor map showing your location, information about the park restoration, works located around the park.

including before and after photographs, and a GPS Art Trail to the various art works located around the park.

The history of the site dates back to the founding of the Priory of St James in the 12th century.

At the southern end of today's park, near to The Broadway, are the remains of the priory which was home to an order of monks for nearly 400 years until the English Reformation of Henry VIII in the 16th century.

Access to the park and the ruins is free. To find out more download the app at: bit.ly/priorypark or use the QR code.



Volunteers and community stalwarts are in line for a prestigious award from the Mayor of Dudley.

People are being urged to nominate unsung heroes from the world of sport, art, community spirit, education, business and environment as part of the Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards.

The awards are presented by the Mayor at his annual charity ball in March which raises thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

The public now have six weeks to nominate the people who go above and beyond in their communities for the awards, which are this year in association with At Rentals and Pro-tech Pavers. Local businesses have this year backed the awards which are all named after heroes of the borough.

They are the Duncan Edwards award for sport, sponsored by Nordic Timber Buildings, the Cedric Hardwicke award for arts sponsored by GMB Union, the Frank Foley award for community spirit sponsored by Cushillo Personnel, the Thomas Attwood award for education which is sponsored by The School Travel Company, the Mike Holder award for business sponsored by Dudley College and the William Shenstone award for environment, sponsored by Jessup Brothers.

Nominations for this year's awards are now open and people will be able to put names forward until February 19.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, said: "There are lots of people who serve their communities every day in a number of ways, without seeking thanks or reward. There are also people who are doing great things in business to help grow the economy and create jobs.

"As a community council we really see the value of this work in helping us to create thriving communities across the borough.

"We want to hear about these people to find out what makes them special and give them the recognition they deserve with one of our civic awards. I am very much looking forward to meeting them on the night."

There is also a seventh trophy, the Mayor's



Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam launch the awards

Pride of Dudley Award, which will be decided by a public vote next month (February). The Mayor will choose four people or groups he feels have stood out to him on his civic engagements so far in his Mayoral year.

The public will then have the chance to vote online for the winner. Nominations cannot be put forward for this particular award. A judging panel will decide the other six categories.

The winners and runners-up will be presented with their prize – a bespoke piece of glass

designed by local glass artist Alister Malcolm and a certificate by the Mayor of Dudley at the Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill in March.

The annual ball raises thousands of pounds for the Mayor's chosen charities each year and award winners will have the chance to celebrate their achievements with distinguished guests.

People can nominate online at www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/civicawards or can pick up a nomination form from libraries and leisure

centres across the borough.

Alternatively contact communications and public affairs on 01384 817449 for a form, people can also purchase tickets for the ball online at www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/civicawards or by calling 01384 81561

Completed forms should be sent to Mayor's Civic Awards nominations, communications and public affairs, Dudley Council, FREEPOST MID22308, Dudley, DY1 1BR by February 19.

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Prospects for 2017

People aged 16 to 29 living in the Black Country can get 2017 off to a flying start with support from the Black Country Impact, which is helping young adults to make a successful transition from unemployment and inactivity to education and working life.

Since the Black Country Impact formally launched last year, it has been busy building relationships with local employers, training providers and educators and is delighted to announce that hundreds of young adults are already seeing what it can make a difference to their lives.

The project, led by Dudley Council and delivered in partnership with neighbouring Black Country Council's and Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council's Talent Match, has been designed to give young adults a depth of service that would not ordinarily be available to them.

Services include supporting and improving young adult employability, which is tailored to individuals, and can even include personal and basic skills. The project's overall aim is to continually reduce those young adults not in education, employment or training, which ultimately will improve the local labour market.

Anyone looking to kick start employment prospects for 2017 and employers looking to find new talent can get in touch with the Black Country Impact by visiting www.dudley.gov.uk/bcimpact.

Individuals interested in joining the Black Country Impact programme can call 01384 813975. Businesses wanting to explore how the project can help them find new talent can call 01384 817751.

Success is in the bag

Kingswinford start-up business owner Rachel Sanders has got the future of her company, Cake Bag, in the bag, after winning Dudley Council's Ideas and Innovation Den.

As part of its Small Business Saturday offering, the council teamed up with successful local business owners and advisers to offer dragon's den-type events for new and existing organisations to pitch their ideas to experts.

Nineteen small companies and social enterprises in the Dudley borough attended libraries across the borough to explain their ideas for a new business, or to expand their existing one.

Everyone who pitched received immediate advice on viability, strategy and tactics, however 34-year old Rachel was selected to win a further £1,000 of further in-depth business support for her subscription cake decorating firm.

Rachel, a former paediatric audiologist, said: "I was very excited to find out that I had won."

"I set up Cake Bag in March 2016. I have always been interested in cake decorating and when I received a beauty gift subscription, it struck me that there was a gap in the market for people to receive a regular delivery of cake decorating tools and equipment.

"Cake decorators can either sign up to receive monthly Cake Bags, which often include tutorials, or projects to do; or they can select to receive a one-off delivery. I change the theme each month – January's theme was unicorns and rainbows.

"I set up Cake Bag on my own, so it was great to get feedback from the team at the Ideas and Innovations Den. The business has grown so



Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, Rachel Sanders, Cake Bag and Steve Parker, of ICD International Company Development

much and it seemed a great time to get guidance on how to improve and expand. I can't wait to start discussing future plans."

Each Cake Bag bag contains six to eight products by different well-known brands, which could include silicone moulds, cutters, or edibles. They are available at www.cakebag.co.uk.

Rachel will receive £1,000 of business help, advice and backing from Steve Parker, of Steve Parker ICD International Company Development, who was one of the business panelists at the den, and a brainchild behind the scheme.

He said: "My business team and I, including Ralph Savage, Kevin

Brent, Phil Fellows and others, who took time out from our private businesses, were really impressed by everyone that came along and hope that we helped them all with real, honest advice.

"Rachel impressed us with the originality of her idea, her attitudes and the exciting potential for success, that we all believe her company has. I look forward to working further with her to develop clear strategies for making success happen, including through development of new sales and marketing channels in the UK and particularly gaining more business globally."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed,

cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We took a very hands-on approach to Small Business Saturday this year by providing consultancy for local organisations. It was fantastic to receive so many bids to take part and we were impressed with the diversity and creativity of Dudley's entrepreneurs. I would like to congratulate everyone that took part."

Professional feedback at the den was also provided by Graham Parker, chair of Discover (Culture and Learning) Ltd, company owners and business advisers from Access 2 Business, Sweda and the Prince's Trust.

Living in Dudley

Save on your energy bills

Dudley borough residents have the opportunity to save hundreds of pounds on their annual gas and electricity bills thanks to Dudley Council's Big Switch.

The Big Switch has been running for several years and growing in popularity as a result of the fabulous potential savings to be made on home energy bills. Savings of up to £300 a year are typically made when registering for the Big Switch.

With gas and electricity bills on the rise and research indicating that people are reluctant to switch because they find it too confusing, the Big Switch is the perfect solution. Part of a national government scheme, the Big Switch scheme sees councils coming together and taking part in a collective energy switching auction. By joining together they are able to get the very best energy deals through the power of bulk buying.

The Big Switch is live once again and will close on February 13. Once registered householders will have the option of switching energy supplier to the company offering the very best deal. There is however no obligation to do so, so really is nothing to lose.

People can register by either calling Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345, they will then be guided through the simple process. Alternatively you can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk by following the link to the big switch.

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Young bands are sought

The people that brought us Rock the Castle and who have taken young musicians to Birmingham's Symphony Hall and London's Royal Albert Hall are now looking for school aged rock bands and musicians for their latest promotion.

Rock at the NAC is friendly and supportive event that gives young musicians the opportunity to play in a fabulous theatre space with a professional lighting system, PA and a sound engineer.

The event is being organised by Dudley Performing Arts (DPA). All amps, drums and mics are provided, so all the bands need to do is turn up and play.

DPA's Head of Service, Chris Jones, said: "This is a great opportunity for young musicians to play on a proper stage with professional support in front of a friendly audience of parents and friends. We're looking for young bands and musicians of school and college age – bands that have formed in school, college or elsewhere. We'd also like to hear from solo performers, singer-songwriters and duos. It's fun, it's friendly and there's no cost to take part – so please get in touch to find out more or to sign up."

Rock at the NAC will be presented at Netherton Arts Centre on Thursday, March 23. For more information call 01384 813865, email dpa.cs@dudley.gov.uk or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/dpa

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Top programme line-up

Unique event cinema productions and top live stand-up comedy dominate a bustling programme of upcoming shows at Dudley Borough Halls.

Theatre-goers have the chance to experience the very best of British theatre in Stourbridge, without needing to travel to London or Stratford-upon-Avon.

The unique National Theatre Live programme continues throughout 2017 with shows broadcast live directly from the stage to

Stourbridge Town Hall's large cinema screen.

Upcoming highlights include Peter Shaffer's iconic play *Amadeus* on Thursday, February 2, followed by Bernard Shaw's classic *Joan on Thursday*, February 16 – starring former Bond girl Gemma Arterton as Joan of Arc. Other future shows include *Hedda Gabler* and *Twelfth Night*.

Each production is filmed in front of a live theatre audience with cameras positioned throughout the auditorium to ensure that the live cinema audience always get the best possible seat in the house.

Follow up 'Encore' screenings are also taking place for those unable to attend the live broadcasts.

Theatre fans can also look forward to the Royal Shakespeare Company's new 'Rome' season, with *Julius Caesar*, *Antony & Cleopatra* and *Titus Andronicus* set to be beamed live to the cinema screen.

Stourbridge Town Hall's popular fortnightly Monday Movie Matinees continue throughout 2017 with a fresh selection of blockbuster titles including *Bridget Jones's Baby* and *A Street Cat Named Bob*. The town centre venue also continues to play host to the long-running Kum-avaloff comedy nights on the first Thursday

of each month, featuring the best new and established stand-up talent.

Multi-award winning comedian Russell Kane brings his blisteringly-funny solo show 'Right Man, Wrong Age' to Stourbridge on Sunday, April 30, followed by critically acclaimed grouchy, deadpan comedy genius Rich Hall on Friday, May 17.

Dudley Town Hall has its fair share of stand-up talent on display in 2017 with local comedy legend Jasper Carrott appearing at the venue for two successive nights in April, followed by professional grumpy old woman Jenny Eclair on Thursday, May 18, shock-haired master of wordplay Milton Jones on Friday, September 29, and celebrated Cornish comedian Jethro on Thursday, December 7.

The Soul Survivors, one the country's finest exponents of classic soul music, take to the stage in Dudley on Saturday, February 4, with

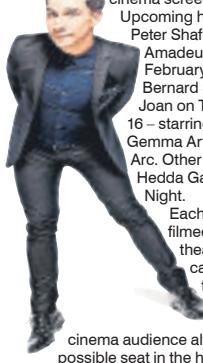
support from The New Amen Corner. Soul

music fans can get their dancing shoes on for Dudley's Big Soul, Motown and Disco Party on Saturday, February 18, as well as regular 70s Disco and Motown and Club Soul nights. All Star Superslam Wrestling also makes a return to Dudley on Friday, February 17.

Matinee performances at Dudley Town Hall throughout 2017 include *The Good Old Days of Variety* starring special guest Anita Harris on Tuesday, March 14, and London's leading West End show band *Too Darn Hot* presenting *The Wonderful West End* on Tuesday, May 16.

Tickets for all of these shows, plus a full list of upcoming events at Dudley Borough Halls, are available at www.boroughhalls.co.uk or by calling the Box Office on 01384 812812.

You can also follow Dudley Borough Halls on Twitter @BoroughHalls and keep up-to-date on Facebook by visiting www.fb.me/BoroughHalls



Deadpan comedy genius Rich Hall



David Walliams

Hippo on the Moon

The stage version of The First Hippo on the Moon by actor, writer and comedian David Walliams is coming to Stourbridge this February half-term.

Based on David Walliams' original children's book with illustrations by Tony Ross, *The First Hippo on the Moon* is an explosively funny space adventure which sees the enormously rich Hercules Waldorf-Franklin III and ingenious Shelia compete to be the first hippo to make it to the moon.

It has been adapted for the stage by acclaimed theatre company Les Petits following their hugely successful production of *Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs*.

It is directed by Les Petits' artistic director Oliver Lansley whose recent adaptations have included the immersive dining experience *Dinner at the Twits* and *Alice's Adventure's Underground*. The puppets for *The First Hippo on the Moon* have been created by Nick Barnes and Finn Caldwell who have previously collaborated on *War Horse* and *The Lorax*. *The First Hippo on the Moon* is suitable for children aged three and up.

The show, which takes place on Friday, February 24 at 1pm, lasts one hour and there is no interval. Tickets are available at www.boroughhalls.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01384 812812.

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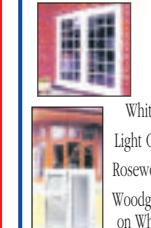


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Development a lasting tribute to former headteacher

A former headteacher who taught generations of school children at a former borrough school will be forever remembered as part of a multi-million pound scheme to turn the building into state-of-the-art homes.

The school, which later housed the borough's archives collection, has recently undergone a major transformation to

convert it into

sixteen stunning new council homes at a cost of £2.45million.

The development has been renamed Stanley Grange, in memory of George Stanley Grange, the infant and junior school's dedicated head master from

George Stanley Grange

1938 to 1967.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I am delighted we are able to honour the former headmaster that served the school and his community with dedication and commitment throughout his career.

"It's also great to see that a building that has stood in the heart of the community for more than a century will now continue to do so for future generations."

The daughter of George Stanley Grange,



From left to right: Val Pattinson, daughter of George Stanley Grange, Pamela Finch, Stanley Grange tenant and Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development

Val Pattinson, added: "My sister and I are delighted that our father is being honoured and remembered in this way, we are incredibly proud that all these years later, his role at the school is held in such high regard.

"He had a reputation of being a strict

headmaster but was well liked by his pupils. He was known for being ahead of his time with teaching methods, keen on both creative writing and number games in maths lessons.

"He always loved hearing about the

success of ex-pupils and was incredibly proud to be headmaster at the school.

"He was great fun, loved telling Black Country stories and was very involved in family life, an all round family man."

Away from school, George enjoyed a full social life, including being involved in St John's Ambulance, playing rugby and being a founder member of Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club.

Community

He was also in amateur dramatics and produced plays for the local community.

The Victorian school opened in October 1879 and closed its doors in 1986, later becoming the home of Dudley Council's archives service.

The architectural features of the former school have been preserved during the conversion, with the contractors salvaging and recycling original features including the original boys' and girls' entrances.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, added: "This scheme has been one of our most important new build projects to date.

"It is part of a much wider regeneration project which has seen the archives collection move to purpose built accommodation in the heart of Dudley town centre's tourism area."

Last summer Dudley Council appointed contractors AM Griffiths to redevelop the scheme and more than twelve months later the contractors are now off site, the work is complete and the homes are ready for their new tenants to move into.

Living in Dudley

Council scheme helps locals keep warm



Mrs Geraldine Jarju

Dudley Council's winter warmth support scheme which helped more than eight hundred residents keep warm and well in their homes last winter has been helping even more people this winter.

The scheme helps people struggling to keep their homes and themselves warm enough during the winter months. A variety of practical support, information and expert advice is provided to help people keep their homes affordably warm.

Anyone worried about keeping their home warm, struggling with paying their fuel bills or concerned about keeping well at home during the winter due to the cold can ask for help from the scheme.

Help includes expert advice and support with changing to the best energy provider and tariff for you and help getting fuel discounts and grants. Homeowners, council tenants and private rental tenants can all use the service.

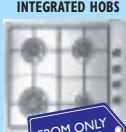
The winter warmth helpline is 01384 817086. People can call to request a free home visit.

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A helping hand for unpaid

There are 6.5 million unpaid carers in the UK, that's around one in every eight adults.

Carers come in all shapes and sizes, ages and ethnicities.

They might be a child carer, a parent carer or a carer of an older person and they could care for a friend, partner, family member or neighbour.

People are classified as a carer if they provide unpaid help and support to someone who could not manage without their help.

Whatever the situation, caring can be hard work and unpaid carers often neglect themselves and their own needs.

Dudley Carers Alliance is a partnership of Dudley borough organisations that provides a new one-stop shop for carers.

Expert information, advice and guidance are available to support and empower all carers, irrespective of age or circumstance.

Help on offer includes financial help and options for practical support, support with carers getting time to themselves, advice on keeping healthy and well, support with the stress and pressure of caring and guidance on planning for the future.

For more information people can contact Dudley Carers Alliance on 01384 818723.

Hundreds get event up and running



Run director Nick Price and Dudley Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif with runners who took part in the event

More than 300 people got their New Year off to a great start by taking part in a new weekly parkrun around the Dell Stadium and Fenspool Nature Reserve.

The free 5k run, which takes place every Saturday morning at 9am, kicked off on Saturday and attracted more than 300 participants in its first week.

The event starts and finishes at the Dell stadium and is part of the national 'parkrun' social movement, which sees weekly organised events in parks and green spaces all across the world.

Set up by Dudley Council as part of its 'Let's Get Active' initiative, it's hoped the run will help people who want to get more physically active outdoors whilst attracting those who already run and want to do more.

Delighted

Participants of all ages and fitness levels are welcome and there is no need to pre-book. People will meet at the Dell Stadium building at 8.50am.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, said: "We're delighted to be able to offer this parkrun session which provides

residents with a safe and social opportunity to take up weekly physical activity, in one of our great outdoor spaces. I would encourage anyone who's interested in taking up running and those who already run regularly to come along and join in with the fun."

For further updates and information people can visit the parkrun website or view details of the Dudley parkrun on facebook. They can also call The Dell Stadium on 01384 812942 or email dudleyoffice@parkrun.com

For other activities on offer in Dudley borough visit www.lets-get.com



Runners gather at the Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill, for the first parkrun

Tuesday 14th February

Where to dine this Valentine's



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Boys on tour – P 29



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See Page 29

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Children under 3's: £0.00
Booking: 01384 453101



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ROCK & METAL

U2-2 – Tribute to U2
Tonight, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Legends Of Rock
Tonight, £3
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Stanley Dee – Steely Dan tribute
Tonight, £8 - £7
The Roadhouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Independent Venue Week showcase feat. Rinse + Fears Chella + Alma
Tonight, £5
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Quadrophenia Night
Tomorrow, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Sensational 60's Experience
Tomorrow, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Nonsuch + Byron Hare + Yung Jimmys Big Ideas
Tomorrow, Six Eight Kafe, Birmingham, B2 5HG.
Call 0121 448 8089

Juyo + Timmas + LCD – part of Independent Venue Week 2017
Sun, £3
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Tykeetto
Mon, £16 - £18
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Black Sabbath
Thu, Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Roadhouse Presents: Rock/Indie Showcase
Thu, £4
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Roy Orbison Story
Thu, £22
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Menace Beach



Thursday, 7.30pm
Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath
Scuzzy grunge rock from the noisy Leeds duo, who released new single Give Blood last week. Support from Birmingham band Mutes. See hareandhoundskingsheath.skidletickets.com

CLUBBING

After Dark Launch Party w/ Cause & Affect, Stanton Warriors
Tonight – tomorrow, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

The Weekend Anthems performed by Killertream
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Solardo Sessions Birmingham
Tomorrow - Sun, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

Playaz : Birmingham
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Call 0121 771 1521

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES MOTOWN & REGGAE

The UB40 Experience
Tomorrow, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Paul Jones and Dave Kelly
Tomorrow, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Sun, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue, Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Live Jazz Broadcast
Wed, £5 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

POP

ABBA + Bee Gees (tributes)
Tomorrow, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Thank ABBA For The Music
Tomorrow, £21.50 - £23.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Love



Until February 11
The Rep Studio, Birmingham
The experiences of those in poverty and temporary accommodation are examined in this hard-hitting new drama from Alexander Zeldin, which was recently seen at the National Theatre. See birmingham-rep.co.uk

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue, The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Ray Cooper
Wed, £11
Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham, B14 7LY.
Call 0121 444 2803

CLASSICAL

Nights On Broadway
Tonight, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Junior Conservatoire Orchestral Concert
Tomorrow, £5 - £7
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
Sun, £15 - £40
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281 and

Tue, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232 and

Tue, Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Beethoven's Fifth
Sun, Thu, CBSO Centre, Birmingham, B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

KS3: A Journey Across the Western World
Mon - Tue, CBSO Centre, Birmingham, B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

Liebeslieder (Elouise Waterhouse)
Thu, £6 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Fiddler on the Roof
Tonight, Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE.
Call 01384 812960

Jackson Live
Tonight, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Someone Like You - The Adele Songbook
Tonight, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Standup comedy – Garr Murrain, Javier Jarquin, Micky Bartlett
Tonight - tomorrow, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.
Call 08700 111 960

THEATRE

Crazy Town



Monday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
Come my baby, come, come, my baby, and see this 90s rap-rock outfit from California still fronted by Seth Binzer (AKA Shifty Shellshock, pictured), following a stint in rehab. See wolvesciv.co.uk

Micky Flanagan Warm Up Show
Tomorrow, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

What's In A Name?
Tomorrow, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

MISC. EVENTS

The Birmingham Whisky Club Presents: Craig's List - New Releases
Today, The Wellington, Birmingham, B2 5SN.
Call 0121 200 3115

The Birmingham Whisky Club & Rowheath Pavilion Present: Burns' Ceilidh
Tomorrow, Rowheath Pavilion, Birmingham, B30 1HH.
Call 0121 458 1711

Baptism of Fire: Wilfred Owen's War in 1917
Tomorrow, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, SY11 1JX.
Call 01743 365478

Bridge Club
Mon, Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

ARTS & CULTURE

Spotlight Tour
Today, Sun, Free Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 0121 5727300

Stitch Social
Today, Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 0121 5727300

Making Veganism Easy
Today, Purely Vegan Store, Birmingham, B14 6EB.
Call 0121 443 3211

Short Introductory Talk: Help & Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
Tomorrow, Free The Polish Millennium Centre, Birmingham, B5 5PH.
Call 0121 643 3577

Decopatch Craft Workshop
Tomorrow, Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Oh Boy! Buddy in rock 'n' roll show

ROCK 'n' roll musical Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story tells the enduring tale of the 1950s music icon's meteoric rise to fame and his final legendary performance before his tragic death in a plane crash at the aged on 22.

The show will be presenting a feast of 50s nostalgia at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

In just 18 months the bespectacled Texas-born singer-songwriter had revolutionised the face of contemporary music, influencing a host of stars from The Beatles to Bruce Springsteen.

The production boasts a multi-talented cast, including Glen Joseph and Alex Fobbeston (who alternate the role of Buddy Holly), in a show that presents two hours of music with more than 20 of Buddy's greatest hits, including That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue, Oh Boy and Rave On.

Concert

The show recreates the final concert, held at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, which also featured Buddy's ill-fated tour mates The Big Bopper, of Chantilly Lace fame, and Ritchie La Bamba Valens.

The show has inspired a generation of multi-million selling jukebox musicians, and has been seen by more than 22 million music fans since it opened in London's West End in 1989.

It has also been endorsed by Buddy's widow, Maria Elena Holly, who said of the show: "We never imagined



The cast of Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story will be rocking the Grand Theatre

Buddy's music and story would still be rocking stages and entertaining audiences around the world week-in week-out. I believe this is testament to a great show – the first of its kind – and to the enduring appeal of Buddy Holly and what he represents: youthful energy, huge talent and creativ-

ity, combined with a determination to make a lasting impression in this world."

Tickets are now on sale by calling 01902 429212, online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by visiting the box office at the Lichfield Street venue in person.

Blues star's homecoming

JOANNE Shaw Taylor is the Black Country's own queen of the blues, who relocated to the US to forge her career and is at long last recognised in her homeland – judging by the sold out notices for her homecoming gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday.

Last year the 30-year-old singer and guitarist from Wednesbury released her sixth album Wild, which was recorded in Nashville's Grand Victor Sound Studios with top producer Kevin Shirley, who has also worked with Led Zeppelin, Journey, Iron Maiden, Black Stone Cherry and supergroup Black Country Communion.

"Recording at Grand Victor was incredibly inspiring," said Joanne. "It is quite the legendary studio. Dolly Parton cut Jolene and I Will Always Love You here. And Chet Atkins worked here. Basically, if there was a hit record out of Nashville, it was made here. I am very proud of this album, and I can't wait for everyone to hear it."

That album caught the ear of bosses at Jools Holland's Later TV music show, who gave the blues star a slot on the show in October.

She was still a schoolgirl with an obsession for the music in her dad's record collection – such as Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan – when former Eurythmics star and producer Dave Stewart spotted her considerable musical potential and she went on to release debut album White Sugar in 2009.

Joanne played lead guitar in Annie Lennox's band at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace in 2012 and her blues work has gained such celebrity fans as Stevie Wonder and top guitarist Joe Bonamassa.



From Russia, and China, with love

CLASSICAL music enthusiasts can mark Chinese New Year with an East meets West concert at the Elgar Concert Hall at the University of Birmingham tomorrow (Friday) with pianist Di Xiao, cellist Jiaxin Lloyd Webber and harpist Eleanor Turner.

Other highlights are at Symphony Hall. On Sunday afternoon (also February 2 afternoon) CBSO perform Beethoven's Fifth, conducted by Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla, plus Mozart's final concerto, with pianist Francesco Piemontesi. On Wednesday night Vasily Petrenko conducts Russian greats for Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Name drop in to ruin a dinner party

THE choice of the name 'Adolf' for a baby is revealed at a dinner party, leading to a furious row in ferocious farce What's In A Name?, which gets its UK premiere at Birmingham Rep tomorrow (Friday) at the start of a two-week run.

Based on the French stage and film sensation Le Prenom, by Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de La Patelliere, the dark comedy has been adapted and directed by Jeremy Sams. The cast includes Sarah Hadland, best known as Miranda Hart's TV sidekick Stevie, and former EastEnders actor Nigel Harman. See birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Fans grateful for day of the Dead

IT'S the day of the Dead at Bilton's Robin 2 venue in Bilton on Wednesday when the 50th anniversary of Live/Dead, by legendary San Francisco hippy group The Grateful Dead. It is performed by a veteran band featuring former Grateful Dead pianist Tom Constanten with Jefferson Starship alumni.

Moving from the Bay to Birkenhead, those wry post-punk indie satirists Half Man Half Biscuit visit the Robin on Thursday, February 2. Before that, the Robin hosts classic rock with Atomic Rooster and Snafu on Friday, The Quireboys (unplugged) on Sunday and New York's Tyketto on Monday.

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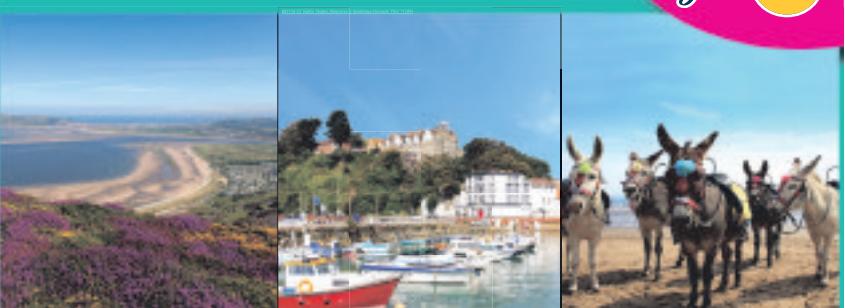
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- ✓ Entertainment some nights
- ✓ Excursion to Ostend
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CHOICE



Gary Barlow

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. 11.30 **The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** 1.00 BBC News; Weather. **1.15 Tennis:** Australian Open Highlights. **2.30 Live Bowls:** World Indoor Championships. **The men's singles semi-finals.** 4.30 **Final Score.** 5.10 BBC News. 5.20 **Regional Programme.** 5.30 **Who Dares Wins.**

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Diane Louise Jordan, Alan Rusbridger, Richard Coles, Nacy Dallalio, Matt Baker, Sharon Davies, Mark Foster, Gyles Brandreth and Susan Calman all take part in the unorthodox quiz show.

7.00 Let It Shine. The new round of auditions continues along with Amber Riley's last appearance as a judge, as one last set of would-be pop princess display their vocal abilities for the panel.

8.25 Casualty. Alicia is surprised to discover her longestranged parents Howard and Jackie are planning to give their marriage another go. However, when old family friend Martin turns up at their surprise anniversary party, and seems to have a falling-out with Howard, it soon becomes clear there is a secret third wheel in their relationship. Meanwhile, Charlie balances his over-zealous wedding-planning with caring for a reluctant teenage football star, and Cal's trust in Alicia is tested when he discovers she has a secret phone hidden in her locker.

9.15 Taboo. As both the Crown and London turn against him, James Delaney enlists the depraved chemist Cholmondeley into his company, and Lorna aims to prove she is anything but a weak link.

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **National Lottery Update.**

10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Gabby Logan presents highlights of the latest FA Cup fourth-round matches, which included Tottenham Hotspur v Wycombe Wanderers and Middlesbrough v Accrington Stanley.

11.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world, joined by former Super Bowl winners Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell.

12.25 Film: *A Few Best Men.* (2011) Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel. **1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **2.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.35 Film: Adventure in Baltimore. (1949) Period comedy, starring Shirley Temple. **8.05 Film:** Little Women. (1949) Oscar-winning drama, starring June Allyson. **10.00 Secret Britain** (R) **10.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (R) **12.00 Explore Chester: A Culinary Adventure.** (R) **1.00 Film:** *Kismet.* (1955) Musical fantasy, starring Howard Keel. **2.50 Flog It!** (R) **2.50 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes.** (R) **4.25 Mastermind.** (R) **4.55 University Challenge.** (R) **5.20 On Connect.** (R) **5.55 Film:** *Finding Neverland.* (2004) Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp.

7.30 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. Andy Torbet dives below the waves in search of the inspiration for the first stone circle, while Chris Packham and Neil Oliver spend the night on an abandoned island as they hunt for clues as to why cultures change. Meanwhile, Shini Somara tests the technology behind a bronze age sauna and the archaeologists uncover a remarkable find. **Last in the series.** (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon have their hands full with two German prisoners and the arrival of a suspicious Polish captain, while Walker sees a way to make easy money. Comedy first broadcast in 1968, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

9.00 Francis Bacon: A Brush with Violence. Documentary exploring just how much of Francis Bacon's notoriety as a rude, drunken drunkard was actually fuelled by the fear he maintained to protect the complex and hidden man behind his own myth. Making use of interviews with celebrity commentators, fellow artists, and some of the people who knew him best, this programme sets out to deconstruct the perceived and hidden identities of the man known as one of the most sought-after British artists of the 20th century.

10.20 Film: The Sapphires. (2012) Four Aboriginal Australian singers are propelled to stardom when they entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman and Chris O'Dowd.

12.00 Bowls: *World Indoor Championships.* **1.00 Film:** *Love Is The Devil.* (1998) 2.25 **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10 Grizly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan:** Treks' Adventures. **6.45 Dino Dan:** Treks' Adventures. **6.45 Softy.** (R) **6.55 Super 4.** (R) **7.15 Oddbods.** (R) **7.20 Oddbods.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled! **7.35 Scrambled!** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. **7.50 Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. **8.10 Scrambled!** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.30 Scrambled!** Ben Grylls Survival School. **9.05 Scrambled!** Adventure Time. **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Rebound.** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25 This House.** (R) **11.25 25 Guess This House.** (R) **11.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.55 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.25 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** (R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.35 Grand Designs.** (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News.**

7.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. Penelope Keith seeks out remarkable communities in Argyll and Bute, where she learns about the local Viking saga in Mull, and explores how the Crinan Canal created one of Scotland's most beautiful short cuts. The presenter also visits Mount Stuart House and visits the island of Easdale; a place without roads and cars. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore a network that is completely new to them as they embark on a voyage across the Netherlands. Their journey takes them to the gardens of Keukenhof and the Teylers Museum in Haarlem, before they arrive in Amsterdam, where they tour the capital's canal districts and Grachtenpand. (R)

9.00 Film: The Monuments Men. (2014) Premiere. Steven Spielberg directs a ensemble cast assembled into a military platoon during the Second World War, and given an unusual mission. They are sent into occupied Europe to recover priceless works of art that have fallen into Nazi hands and ensure the masterpieces survive the conflict. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Matt Damon, Bill Murray and Cate Blanchett.

11.20 Film: Haywire. (2011) A mercenary working for one of the US government is betrayed by one of her employers and goes in search of revenge. Action thriller, with Gina Carano.

1.05 The Last Leg. (R) **2.00 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.00 Hoarder SOS.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.10 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Frasier.** (R) **8.55 Frasier.** (R) **9.15 Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.20 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.50 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.20 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.50 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** (R) **12.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.55 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.25 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** (R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.35 Grand Designs.** (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News.**

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8.00 NCIS. A young Navy Seaman is found dead, with his eyes gouged out, after being involved in a car accident. Director Vance makes a rare return to field duty, pairing up with Gibbs to investigate when it becomes clear the killing seems to be connected to the case of Kip Klugman, a former NCIS agent he once locked up for stealing evidence.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hippgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Aston Villa v Bristol City, Norwich City v Birmingham City, and Reading v Cardiff City.

9.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hippgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Bristol Rovers v Swindon Town, and Yeovil Town v Doncaster Rovers.

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they cope with living alongside one another.

11.05 Body Breaks: Old Face, New Face. Documentary following people who have had extreme cosmetic transformations. (R)

12.00 Super Casino. **3.10 Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **4.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.** (R) **4.50 Divine Designs.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55 The Fairly OddParents.** (R) **10.30 The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **11.25 Film:** *Gold.* (1974) **1.50 Big Bash Cricket Final:** Highlights. Action from the final. **3.20 The Yorkshire Vet.** (R) **4.00 The Yorkshire Vet.** (R) **5.20 The Yorkshire Vet.** (R)

6.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A tenant who turned out to be a confidence trickster and a letting agent who locked a couple out of their own buy-to-let investment property. (R)

7.05 Los Angeles. The team investigating the mysterious disappearance of marina is accused of boating a Japanese tourist to death, having already been linked with the rape of a businessman's daughter. He claims that he is in love with the girl he is alleged to have raped, and that the accusations being thrown in his direction are a fabrication initiated by her father.

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12.00 Super Casino. **3.10 Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **4.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.** (R) **4.50 Divine Designs.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams **8.00 Treasures of the Indus.** **9.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America.** **10.00 The Young Montalbano.** **11.55 Top of the Pops:** 1983 **12.35 Otis Redding:** Soul Ambassador **1.40 Classic Soul.** **2.40 Sings Motown.** **3.40 Close**

ITV2

11.00 Ninja Warrior UK. **12.00 Take Me Out** **Celebrity Special.** **1.00 You've Been Framed!** **Gold.** **2.05 Film:** Step Up: The Streets (2008) **3.05 FYI Daily.** **3.10 Film:** Step Up: 2: The Streets (2008) **4.05 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.05 FYI Daily.** **5.10 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.50 Film:** *McNab.* **6.00 Film:** *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.* (2013) **9.00 FYI Daily.** **9.05 Film:** *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.* (2013) **11.10 Family Guy.** **12.40 American Dad!** **1.35 The Cleveland Show.** **2.00 Dads.** **2.25 Safeword.** **3.00 Teleshopping.**

ITV4

1.00 Film: *The Man from the Alamo.* (1953) **12.05 FYI Daily.** **12.10 Film:** *The Man from the Alamo.* (1953) **12.45 Storage Wars.** **1.15 ITV Racing Live** from Cheltenham and Doncaster. Coverage of today's race meetings at Cheltenham and Doncaster. **4.30 Film:** *Lawman.* (1971) **5.30 FYI Daily.** **5.35 Film:** *Lawman.* (1971) **6.30 Paws Stars.** **7.00 Darts:** The Masters Live. Coverage of day two from Milton Keynes. **11.00 Film:** *Resident Evil.* (2002) **12.05 FYI Daily.** **12.05 Film:** *Resident Evil* (2002) **1.05 River Monsters.** **2.05 Storage Wars.** **2.30 Sport** **Teleshopping.**

E4

12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **1.00 Film:** *School of Rock.* (2003) **3.15 Rude(ish)** **Tube Shorts.** **3.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00 Film:** *X-Men: First Class.* (2011) **11.35 Gogglebox.** **1.15 First Dates.** **2.25 Virtually Famous.** **3.05 Cheving Gum.** **3.30 Revenge.** **4.55 The Goldbergs.**

Film4

1.00 The Poseidon Adventure. (1972) **3.20 The House of Magic.** (2013) **5.05 Clueless.** (1995) **6.55 Millions.** (2004) **8.50 Loving.** **10.15 Interview Special.** **9.00 Slumdog Millionaire.** (2008) **11.25 Yakuza.** **12.00 Apocalypse.** (2015) **1.40 R100.** (2013)

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CHOICE



Emily Watson

Apple Tree Yard (BBC1, 9pm)

Yvonne shuts down in the aftermath of the attack, unable to report the crime to the police or open up to her husband. Things only get worse when her attacker begins stalking her, progressing from e-mails to following her. Terrified, she turns to Costley for support. He arranges a meeting at a safe house and she becomes tempted to enlist his help in getting revenge. Gary makes a startling admission on the morning that Yvonne prepares to accompany Costley as he seeks out her attacker – which leads her into an even worse situation.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.50** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. **2.00** BBC Newsbeat. **2.15** The Big Hunt. (R) **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Manchester United v Wigan Athletic (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.05** News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present the show from the Peak District. Matt investigates a project to protect the area's moorland, while Ellie meets a photographer and a mountainaineer working together on an amateur collaboration. Edith Bowman explores the East Neuk of Fife. Tom Heap reports on broadband access in rural areas, and Adam Henson completes his journey across New Zealand. **7.30** Still Open All Hours. A mysterious woman comes looking for Eric, and Kath is not convinced by his claims to have no idea who she is. Granville tries to promote the medicinal qualities of turnips. **8.00** Call the Midwife. Sister Ursula insists the midwives do not become emotionally involved with their patients, but her harsh new approach proves hard to cope with in the face of two devastating cases. A father-to-be is badly injured in an explosion, leaving him unable to work to support his family, and a couple with dwarfism expecting their first child are warned that their child may be stillborn. **9.00** Apple Tree Yard. Yvonne is stalked by her attacker and is unable to talk to either her husband or the police. She turns to Costley for support, only to find herself plunged into a greater nightmare. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. The latest matches in the FA Cup fourth round, which included Millwall v Watford, Fulham v Hull City, and Manchester United v Wigan Athletic. **11.20** The Boy Who Tried to Kill Trump. **12.05** The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **7.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. **8.00** An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) **8.30** The Edible Garden. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **10.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** Figure Skating: European Championships. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **2.30** Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships. The men's singles final. **5.15** Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer. (R) **6.15** Ski Sunday. Including action from the World Cup night slalom in Schladming, Austria, and the women's downhill event staged in Cortina, Italy. **7.00** City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the advanced technology needed to ensure the safety of the one million people estimated to be travelling by plane at any given time. They discover the daily routines of air traffic controllers in the busiest airspace in the world and pilots flying thousands of miles at night. Plus, transporting horses by planes and in-flight medical advice. (R) **8.00** Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of a range of dolls inspired by history, a new kind of bicycle indicator light, and a honey-infused drink made by beekeepers. **9.00** Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. New series. Reggie Yates hosts a grueling physical challenge. The recruits are put through their paces by a former colonel in the South African Special Forces Brigade. **10.00** OI XL. Guests Colin Lane, Sarah Millican and Noel Fielding join regular panelist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "numbers" in this extended episode. **10.45** Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo, with rising star Tom Allen and US comedian Ari Barker. (R) **11.30** Film: The Cider House Rules. (1999) A doctor's assistant living in the orphanage where he grew up sets out to see more of life, but faces difficult moral decisions. Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine. **1.30** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.30** Holly City. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two. **5.30** Secrets of the Mona Lisa. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Treks' Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooy. (R) **6.55** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Super 4 Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrabbled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrabbled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. (R) **8.20** Scrabbled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrabbled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrabbled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywide: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.35** The Voice UK. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.30** Dance Dance Dance. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the dance contest. The celebrity contestants try to replicate routines made famous by Bruno Mars, Beyoncé and Jennifer Lopez and secure themselves a place in next week's penultimate episode. **8.00** Endeavour. The discovery of a 2000-year-old body provides fresh evidence in a five-year-old unsolved missing persons case, so Morse and Thursday take up the investigation, discovering a possible link to a local pagan ritual to celebrate the harvest. The investigation leads them to a nuclear power station, where they face a conspiracy of silence concerning an experimental new reactor and a potential disaster that could devastate Oxford. Guest starring Sheila Hancock, widow of original Inspector Morse star John Thaw. Last in the series. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Peston on Sunday. (R) **11.15** Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights. Action from the latest Anglo-Welsh fixtures, including Scarlets v Saracens, Sale Sharks v Cardiff Blues, Ospreys v Bristol and Leicester Tigers v Northampton Saints. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Saturday Night Live. (R) **12.30** George Clooney American Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **4.30** Channel 4 News. **4.55** Film: Avatar. (2009) Sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington. **8.00** Walking the Americas. The final leg of Lewis Wood's journey brings him to Panama, where he ventures through the Darien Gap, one of the world's most dangerous stretches of jungle, to reach Colombia. He also visits the Panama Canal, explores an uncharted cave that is home to vampire bats, and spends some time with an indigenous tribe living deep in the jungle. Last in the series. **9.00** Homeland. Carrie and Redda battle for their client, Quinn fights against his new life, and Saul and Dar suspect Keane has a secret. Claire Danes and Rupert Friend star. **10.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R) **11.00** Film: Sleepy Hollow. (1999) A sceptical 18th-century detective takes on a headless horseman who decapitates his victims. Tim Burton's gothic horror, with Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson. **1.00** How to Lose Weight Well. Dr Xand van Tulleken and dietician Hala El-Shafie help a student to slim down for her graduation, and a grandmother attempts to lose weight. (R) **1.55** Heston's Great British Food. A twist on the classic British afternoon tea, featuring a cake stand made out of sponge, a Darjeeling and hedgehog brew and an edible sandwich casino. (R) **2.50** The Autistic Gardener. Award-winning designer Alan Gardner and his team of fellow autistic horticultural enthusiasts radically update a couple's neglected plot in north east London. (R) **3.40** Win It! Cook It. Two more teams of contestants answer questions to win a selection of today's mixed bag of ingredients. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake!: Bob Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.00** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.20** Pin Ahoy. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pin Ahoy. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **12.00** Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **2.00** Film: The First Wives Club. (1996) Revenge comedy, starring Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton. **4.00** Film: Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock. **6.10** Film: Leap Year. (2010) A woman plans to take advantage of an Irish tradition to propose to her boyfriend while on holiday in Dublin. When they become separated, she faces a dangerous journey across the country in the company of a charming local innkeeper, and is tempted to leave her boyfriend for her travelling companion. Romantic comedy, starring Amy Adams, Matthew Goode and Adam Scott. **8.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4. Iain Lee narrates a compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre and humorous things. With contributions from Andi Osho, Felicity Ward and Scott Capurro. **8.55** News Weekend. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. **10.00** Film: Life As We Know It. (2010) Premieres. Two people who do not get on are forced to live together when they are named guardians of their dead friends' baby daughter. Comedy, starring Katherine Heigl. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm. **12.15** Film: Going for the Distance. (2010) **2.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Saw: The Final Chapter. (2010) **4.40** Access. **4.50** Doctor House. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **8.00** British History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas **10.30** Film: Under the Rainbow (2013) **12.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **1.15** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **2.15** Bollywood and Beyond: A Century of Indian Cinema **3.45** Close **ITV2** **11.30** The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.40** 2Awesome: LA Story **3.00** Film: Inspector Gadget (1999) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Inspector Gadget (1999) **4.30** Film: The Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.00** Film: Skyfall (2012) **8.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Skyfall (2012) **10.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Louisa Johnson **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **12.50** Wycliffe **1.55** Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Film: Changeling (2008) **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.10** May the Best House Win **4.45** On the Buses **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4** **4.45** Darts: The Masters Live. **5.00** The Darts Show **5.55** Mr Bean **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live. The semi-finals and final from Milton Keynes. **11.00** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **1.05** River Monsters **2.05** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **10.00** Film: Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **11.50** Britain's Favourite Superhero **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **3.15** Rude (ish) Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks **5.00** Film: The Love Bug (1968) **3.10** The Borrowers (1997) **4.50** Sunshine on Leith (2013) **6.50** The River Wild (2013) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Spring Breakers (2012) **1.05** The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness (2013) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES**MONDAY**

Hidden Truth: Lies Will Surface, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A young woman is forced to prove her brother's innocence after a teenage girl is found murdered in a California town. But she discovers a disturbing dark side to the community, and the hidden identity of the killer. Thriller, starring Shawn Christian. (2016)

TUESDAY**Fatal Memories, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Successful lawyer Sutton is confronted by a horrific scene when she returns to her family home to find her mother has been brutally stabbed to death, and her troubled younger sister April standing over the body with a bloodied knife. Despite the overwhelming evidence against her sibling, Sutton is convinced April is innocent, and sets out to prove it. Mystery thriller, starring Italia Ricci and Magda Apanowicz. (2015)

WEDNESDAY**Nightmare from the Past, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Two decades after four high school students accidentally killed a mansion's owner, a mother faces a ghost from her youth in the form of the obsessed ex-con who paid the price for the friends' crimes. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott. (2015)



The Guardian, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY**Garage Sale Mystery 7: The Art of Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

While busy preparing for a charity garage sale event, an antique store owner discovers a body in the attic of a nearby home. Using her eye for detail, as well as her experience with antiques and murder, she sets about putting together clues to help catch a killer. Drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2016)

FRIDAY**The Guardian, BBC1, 11.55pm**

A distinguished coastguard is recruited to prepare the next generation of aspiring search and rescue specialists. He meets his match with a talented and troubled rookie – a high-school swimming champion who is determined to inherit the instructor's crown. However, throughout the rigorous training the pair forge a strong friendship and settle the struggle for authority. Drama, with Kevin Costner. (2006)

Coastal journey brings back the memories

The United Kingdom has one of the world's most varied coastal landscapes, from sweeping sands and rugged cliffs, to spits and mudflats. Then there's the wealth of historic fishing villages and colourful seaside towns which attract many visitors every year.

In his latest travelogue, Robson Green explores some of Blighty's most intriguing stretches of coastline and discovers what it is about the shoreline that continues to inspire.

"Throughout my life, I've always felt happiest when near the sea," he explains. "I grew up close to the coast, and I've swam or fished off the shores of more than a 100 different countries. Now I want to explore the very edges of Britain."

The actor and presenter travels to four very different stretches of coastline, and meets people who share his passion for our shores.

In the first episode he's off to a 90-mile stretch of North Devon coast that holds childhood memories for him. His adventure begins at the popular seaside resort of Ilfracombe,

a town that attracts thousands of visitors every summer.

"There are parts of North Devon that make you feel like you're stepping back in time," explains Robson. "So I'm hoping this journey will help me understand just how and why our love affair with the coast began."

Our Victorian ancestors' desire to be beside the seaside was so great, they would often go to extraordinary lengths to access the best places to soak up the sun. Privately owned tidal pools, with steep cliffs offered the perfect shelter for bathing, but they could only be accessed by boat, so almost 200 years ago, hundreds of Welsh miners were tasked with carving a network of tunnels through the cliffs, to open the pools up to the public.

Aside from investigating a Victorian invention designed to avoid embarrassing swimwear mishaps while changing, Green also sees how the high tidal ranges and craggy rocks make the perfect habitat for marine life.

Following a night under canvas, the eponymous star takes a boat ride 10-miles southwest of Bideford, to the

port of Clovelly. With its cobbled streets and 13th-century harbour, the village evokes the character and atmosphere of a bygone age.

Given its picturesque appeal, there's little wonder it has featured in film versions of Sense and Sensibility and Treasure Island. However, after arriving in this quiet seaside village, Robson is involved in a true life drama and a real rescue mission.

Later, he visits Lundy, a dozen miles off the North Devon coast; it's one of the UK's most unspoiled islands. However, just getting there proves to be a struggle, thanks to the Bristol Channel whose choppy waters leave the star a little green around the gills.

With feet back on terra firma, he's soon suspended precariously over it as he scales the sea cliff on the west side of the island known as the Devil's Slide. At 400-feet in length, it's the largest slab of granite in Europe.

Once a pop star, it seems Robson is now keen on becoming a rock star, but as the show reveals, it's not long before his mind starts playing tricks on him.



Tales from the Coast with Robson Green, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY**Undercover: Britain's Cheap Clothes - Channel 4 Dispatches****Channel 4, 8pm**

The British public have certainly taken internet shopping to their hearts – a few years ago, Black Friday and Cyber Monday were largely unknown concepts in the UK, but this year these pre-Christmas sales days saw us spend almost £6.5 billion online. In her continuing investigation into Britain's cheap clothing market, Morland Sanders looks into what the home-delivery economy boom means for the workers in some of the 1,500 warehouses that have sprung up in Britain to service these orders. Secret filming shows the realities of operatives walking miles of floorspace a day to make sure the clothes are dispatched during the busiest time of year and also asks what happens if an employee is unwell, turns up late or doesn't want to work overtime.

TUESDAY**Further Back in Time for Dinner****BBC2, 8pm**

The Robshaw family enter the turbulent 1910s and the First World War turns all their lives upside down, putting Rochelle back in the kitchen instead of servant Debbie. Never a natural cook, she struggles

to feed the family as supplies start to run out and the war puts an end to their previously carefree lives. However, the decade has its positives too with the freedom of a bike ride and an idyllic picnic, and a visit from celebrity chef John Torode – but even he cannot salvage something tasty from 1918's fish sausages.

WEDNESDAY**DIY SOS: The Big Build****BBC1, 9pm**

There was a time when the original DIY SOS was just Nick Knowles and a bunch of mates having a laugh as they raced against the clock to transform peoples' houses, and lives. Then the projects became more serious as it became obvious that viewers in floods of tears equalled good ratings. The Big Build continues to pluck at the heart strings with one of the most moving editions to date. Nick, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and the team are in the Worcestershire village of Eckington to help 17-year-old Antonia Payne-Cheney. She has a rare condition called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome that causes her joints to regularly dislocate. And because she can't eat normally, she has

to be fed through a tube. The builders need to create a sterile space for medical procedures in her bedroom, a specially adapted wet room and an area where she can socialise with friends and family. Have those hankies on stand-by. You may need them.



Tracey Ullman's Show, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

THURSDAY**Parenting for Idiots****Channel 4, 10pm**

New series. Light-hearted documentary in which a cast of famous faces reveal the many sides of modern parenting in a succession of magic moments and horror stories, while child-free celebrities experience the realities of looking after a child for the first time. Episode one focuses on the different types of chaos that ensue from having children, with Sally Phillips discussing living with nits, Frankie Boyle

revealing how his children embarrass him, and Andrew Flintoff divulging a few truths about the Tooth Fairy. Plus, non-parents Jamie Laing and Mark-Francis Vandelli get a taste of parenthood by looking after a five-month-old baby for the day.

FRIDAY**Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final****Channel 5, 9pm**

After four-and-a-half weeks of nominations, tasks, evictions and walkouts, the nail-biting moment has finally arrived for the remaining All Stars and New Stars to hear the public's verdict. Emma Willis whittles them down one by one until this year's winner is known – but not before Marcus Bentley narrates highlights of their last day in the house.

Tracey Ullman's Show**BBC1, 9.30pm**

New series. The start of a fresh run of comedy sketches featuring the talented entertainer, who made her name in the UK in the early 1980s before settling for some time in the United States. Delinquent Dame Judi Dench is back, but will being a National Treasure be enough to save her this time? Ambitious politician Nicola Sturgeon has her sights set on more than just Scotland, while there's a heartfelt song from German leader Angela Merkel.

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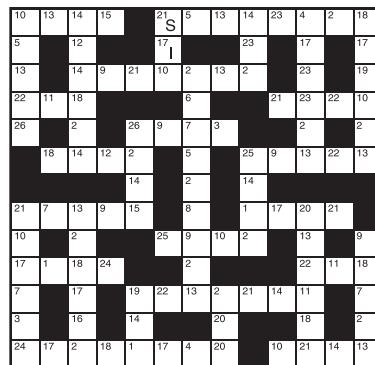


*All prices are subject to VAT

BRAIN GYM No.413

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	O	N	T	W	K	Y	Z	C	L	E															

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

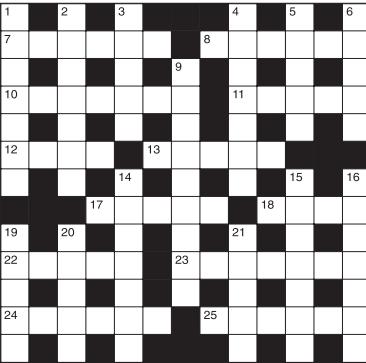
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- No ride smoothed out (6)
- Develop half-love after love returned (6)
- Cruel, as outside the church (7)
- Knotty points for those voting against - about 500 (5)
- In addition; I object about alternative indicator (4)
- Night object (5)
- External appearance of ropes, say (5)
- Court dunderhead in the trees (4)
- It's all right to bring father back to take one animal (5)
- About to beat, drive back (7)
- Trance-producing drink (6)
- Took part in musical game, perhaps (6)

Down

- Charming, maybe, but won't charm everybody's heart (7)
- 100 having a sole winner in anticlimax (7)
- Part of 9 is nothing more than a prisoner's room (5)
- Getting everybody on a level at the end of the day? (7)
- Go smoothly along with learner in the team (5)
- Stop 100 getting relief (5)
- Roar madly about box with instruments in it (9)
- Make false claim about America being notedly harmonious (7)
- Simultaneous discharges of missiles on court? (7)
- A theologian to finish article in appendix (7)
- Meat in the meeting place (5)
- When steps are taken by the troops? (5)
- Fruit to put very quietly in drink (5)



Quick Clues:

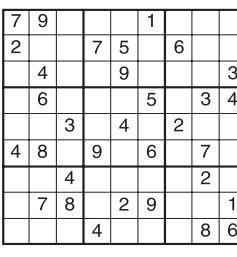
Across

- Fixed (6)
- Cope (6)
- Speech (7)
- Boats (5)
- Solicitude (4)
- Niggard (5)
- Hold up (5)
- Stockings (4)
- Commerce (5)
- Detestable (7)
- Trust (6)
- Decisive moment (6)

Down

- Foretell (7)
- Affect (7)
- Lukewarm (5)
- School bag (7)
- Heathen (5)
- Pier (5)
- Aversion (9)
- Fault (7)
- Admit (7)
- Hermit (7)
- Adhere (5)
- Hesitate (5)
- Tale (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1 6 8 1 2 9 7 5 4 3
7 9 4 6 3 5 2 8 1
2 3 5 1 4 8 9 6 7
8 2 7 3 1 9 6 5 4
5 1 9 8 4 6 2 3 7
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LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

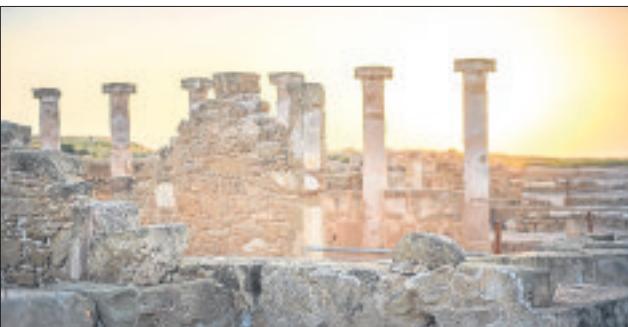
Cryptic - Across: 1 All in; 4 Metallic; 8 Conduct; 9 Woer; 10 Most; 11 Entrance; 13 Dive; 14 Here; 16 Accurate; 17 Open; 20 Image; 21 Remorse; 22 Greatly; 23 Treat; Down: 1 Accommodating; 2 Lines; 3 Pout; 4 Latent; 5 Newsreel; 6 Trounce; 7 Correspondent; 12 Overhead; 13 Declare; 15 Stormy; 18 Purge; 19 Embrace; 20 Click; 21 Click; 22 Click; 23 Click; 24 Click; 25 Click; 26 Click; 27 Click; 28 Click; 29 Click; 30 Click; 31 Click; 32 Click; 33 Click; 34 Click; 35 Click; 36 Click; 37 Click; 38 Click; 39 Click; 40 Click; 41 Click; 42 Click; 43 Click; 44 Click; 45 Click; 46 Click; 47 Click; 48 Click; 49 Click; 50 Click; 51 Click; 52 Click; 53 Click; 54 Click; 55 Click; 56 Click; 57 Click; 58 Click; 59 Click; 60 Click; 61 Click; 62 Click; 63 Click; 64 Click; 65 Click; 66 Click; 67 Click; 68 Click; 69 Click; 70 Click; 71 Click; 72 Click; 73 Click; 74 Click; 75 Click; 76 Click; 77 Click; 78 Click; 79 Click; 80 Click; 81 Click; 82 Click; 83 Click; 84 Click; 85 Click; 86 Click; 87 Click; 88 Click; 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Photo Finnish – one of the national park lakes in Helsinki surrounded by forest



Hot stuff – Santiago from San Cristobal Hill, Chile



Oh what a sight – the ruins of the ancient city in Paphos Archaeological Park, in Cyprus



King of the jungle – a ring-tailed lemur in Madagascar

Destinations off the beaten track

REMEDIY January blues by planning your holidays. Fancy a new experience, here are four overseas locations to top this year's wish-list for far away, and not-so-far-away, destinations.

SANTIAGO, CHILE: Best for long haul

This month, British Airways launch their longest flight, a 14-hour and 40-minute direct route from London Heathrow to Chilean capital, Santiago. (Flights from £680 return if booked in March; www.britishairways.com)

Delve into the life of Nobel Prize-winning poet and political activist Pablo Neruda, the subject of new acclaimed art house film – Neruda – starring Gael Garcia Bernal. Neruda's three eccentric houses have been transformed into museums; two along the coast in Valparaiso and Isla Negra, and one in Santiago's Bellavista district. Visit www.fundacionneruda.org/en for opening times and entry prices.

A 10-minute walk away, across the capital's fast-flowing Mapocho River, lies trendy area Lastarria, home to new boutique hotel

Magnolia. Built in 1929, the former family home has been restored to its former Neo-Gothic glory, with an elegant bar and reading library. Rooms from £145 with breakfast, visit hotelmagnolia.cl

FINLAND: Best for short haul

This December, Finland celebrates 100 years of independence from the Russian Republic, with celebrations and new openings happening throughout 2017.

The most exciting project is the designation of new national park Hossa, in eastern Finland's Kainuu region, which will become the outdoor-loving nation's largest protected nature area.

Hike trails, canoe waterways, or seek out Stone Age rock paintings. Overnight in a cabin or embrace the wilderness by camping; bookings can be made at the Hossa Visitor Centre (www.nationalparks.fi/en/hossavisitorcentre).

Although the woodland setting perfectly matches author Tove Jansson's whimsical imagination, you won't bump into any Moomins in Hossa. Instead, head to Tampere, in June, when the newly renovated Moomin Museum opens, showcasing more than 2,000 pieces of memorabilia (muumilaakso.tampere.fi/en).

Everyone is invited to the party from August 25-27, when outdoor tables will be laid across the country for Finland's ambitious Let's Eat Together festival (syodaanyhdessa.fi/en-english).

MADAGASCAR: Best for wildlife

Revered for its endemic wildlife, most notably the charismatic lemur, this African island, lapped by the Indian Ocean, is benefiting from improved infrastructure and accommodation options.

Managed by Norman Carr Safaris, the new Miavana resort sits on Nosy Ankao, part of a private five-island archipelago off the north-east tip of the mainland. Dissected by lagoons and fringed with reefs, it's ideally located for observing the island's marine bio-diversity.

Visit between June and November to spot migrating humpback whales. To find out more, see www.timeandtideafrika.com/miavana (the property is due to open early 2017).

A more economical option for exploring Madagascar is G Adventures' new eight-day Baobab & Tsingy Explorer trip, focussing on the central region and its famous spiky rock formations. The trip costs from £999

per person, excluding flights; visit www.gadventures.com

PAPHOS, CYPRUS: Best for culture

Offset hours spent snoozing on a sunlounger by clocking up cultural pursuits in 2017's balmy European Capital of Culture.

Throughout the year, 300 events will be staged against a backdrop of Hellenistic tombs and Roman fortresses in the birthplace of ancient goddess Aphrodite on the island's south-west coast.

A varied programme will include open-air concerts in the medieval Castle Square, cinema screenings on the beach, dance shows in the street and an art exhibition along the Akamas Peninsula. For more details, visit www.pafos2017.eu

The mosaics of Nea Paphos (Aphrodite's Sacred City) are rated among the most beautiful in the world and have earned UNESCO World Heritage status. In October, archaeologist Sharon Walker from the British Museum will be hosting a series of workshops about the mosaics at Paphos' sophisticated beachside Almyra hotel. Rooms cost from £86 per night with breakfast; www.thanoshotels.com

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Hand picked holidays with you in mind



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CHATSWORTH

Flower Show and Harrogate



Departing Saturday 10 June 2017

Quote Code: HLN934

The first ever RHS Chatsworth Flower Show in 2017 is set to showcase 'Design Revolutionaries' and promises to be unlike any other flower show, so book early because we expect demand to be heavy.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Yorkshire area hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show
- ✓ Free time in Harrogate

2 days, by coach

only £149.⁹⁵pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/HLN934

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

ROYAL ASCOT

on Ladies' Day & Oxford



Quote Code: AQA135

Departing Wednesday 21 June 2017

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the Windsor Enclosure at Royal Ascot on Ladies' Day, with coach transfer (ticket upgrade available at a supplement)
- ✓ A visit to Oxford

2 days, by coach

only £169.⁹⁵pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/AQA135

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

JEFF LYNN'S

ELO Live at Wembley Stadium



Departing Saturday 24 June 2017

Quote Code: XTM823

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✓ Ticket to see Jeff Lynne's Electric Light Orchestra at Wembley Stadium on Saturday evening (ticket upgrade available at a supplement)
- ✓ Transfer between the hotel and the Stadium
- ✓ Free time in London

2 days, by coach

only £199.⁹⁵pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/XTM823

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

4* LONDON

Weekend Break at the Grosvenor Hotel



Quote Code: WRM646

Selected Saturday departures until September 2017

This is a terrific weekend deal which plants you right in the heart of London, close to Buckingham Palace and Westminster, with a luxury stay at the newly-refurbished 4 star Grosvenor Hotel, plus English breakfast, return coach travel and free time in the capital.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at the 4 star Guoman Grosvenor Hotel, London with full English breakfast
- ✓ Free time in central London

2 days, by coach

from £129.⁹⁵pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/WRM646

Single room supplements £60pp. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call: **01902 902165**

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00

SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA J4782.



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Please note: not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

An impressive extended modern detached bungalow

Substantially extended, a large modern detached bungalow, 16 Southway Court, High Acres, Kingswinford is very well placed within a sought after 'cul-de-sac', which is conveniently located for local amenities.

It is for sale through Taylors at £219,950.

An impressive property, its position is enhanced with a very very large almost full width conservatory which overlooks the beautifully landscaped and easy maintenance rear garden which includes a feature pond and decking.

Southway Court is very well placed within the heart of the desirable 'High Acres' development and forms a small residential cul-de-sac which is within easy reach of local shops available within nearby Madeley Road and Bromley Lane.

There are regular public transport services and Doctors surgery positioned within nearby Rangeways Road. There is easy access into the heart of Kingswinford which provides a superb range of shops and other amenities.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall with light wood style flooring and an archway to the kitchen.

The impressive large lounge with a dining area is a spacious reception room which overlooks the front and has light wood-style flooring. The kitchen includes an integrated electric hob, cooker hood, an integrated fan assisted oven and an integrated fridge. There is also an inner hall and a guest cloakroom/WC.

The large conservatory has doors opening out to the rear garden and decking and light wood-style flooring. The utility has a range of white units and space and plumbing for appliances and light wood-style flooring. The bathroom has a classic white suite with a walk-in bath/shower and full height tiling.

Outside the property is set back from a block paved driveway with a landscaped garden alongside. There is also a carport and small garage/store. The good sized rear garden is attractively landscaped and thoughtfully laid out for low maintenance purposes.

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors

TEL: 01384 401777

EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk



KEY FEATURES

Large & extended

3 bedrooms

Impressive layout

Cul-de-sac location

Convenient position



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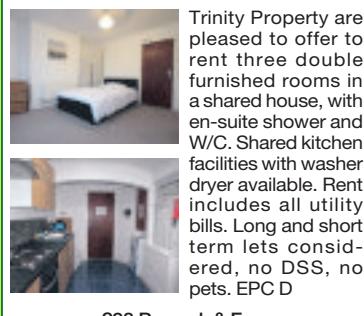
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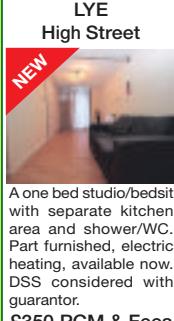


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Dudley, West Midlands,
DY1 1DB

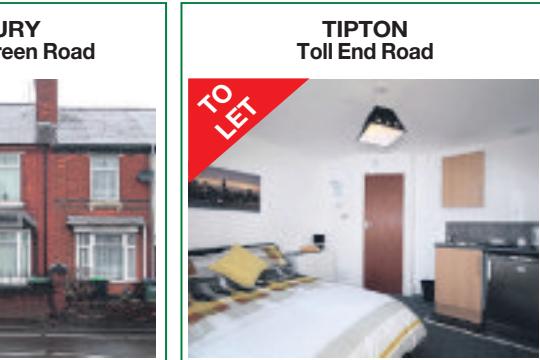
e: dudley@trinityproperty.net



£98 Per week & Fees



A one bed studio/bedsit with separate kitchen area and shower/WC. Part furnished, electric heating, available now. DSS considered with guarantor.
£350 PCM & Fees



£110 Per Week & Fees



A modern two bedroom ground floor apartment. Having open plan lounge and kitchen area to include built in appliances. Master bedroom with en-suite, bathroom. Secure entry, allocated parking. No DSS, no pets. EPC D
£550 PCM & Fees



£425 PCM & Fees

A one bed ground floor apartment with double glazing and central heating, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner, bathroom/WC with shower over, double bedroom with en-suite shower/WC. Part furnished, available for long term. Walking distance of Lower Gornal Village. No DSS, no pets. EPC C
£425 PCM & Fees

£425 PCM & Fees



£425 PCM & Fees

A one bedroom first floor flat, situated on the popular Russells Hall Estate, Dudley. With entrance hall, kitchen, lounge bedroom and bathroom. Being accessed through a communal hallway. EPC E
£425 PCM & Fees



£375 PCM & Fees



£500 PCM & Fees



£500 PCM & Fees



£550 PCM & Fees

A very well presented three bed end terraced family home with double glazing and gas central heating, with a new modern fitted kitchen and bathroom/WC with shower over the bath (downstairs) and two reception rooms. Upstairs has two double bedrooms (master with storage cupboard) and a further single bed. Outside to the rear there is a patio area and fenced garden. No DSS, no pets - unfurnished. EPC D
£635 PCM & Fees

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Ripley Grove, Dudley

A delightful and modern second floor, two bedroom apartment. Offering spacious living accommodation and cul-de-sac location, this splendid home must be viewed. With fitted kitchen, dining area and lounge. Two bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Having a private car park and allocated parking. This immaculately presented apartment must not be missed !!

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LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS Principal house (1,750 sq ft approx). Large garage (300sq ft) with FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS and set within walking distance of village, this is a wonderful spacious family home. Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed accommodation provides; hall, fitted cleals, two reception halls (formerly separate rooms), Hugh through breakfast kitchen and utility room. Four generous bedrooms, bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE/LARGE CARPORT/GATED PARKING, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £311,950, NOW £299,950



LOWER GORNAL, Tennyson Road, Straits

TREMENDOUSLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated double glazed detached two/three bedroom bungalow situated in favoured neighbourhood comprising; porch, central hall, two double bedrooms, shower room (former bathroom), cloaks cupboard, recently refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'walnut' effect units, utility room and toilet, dining room, conservatory, lounge, occasional third bedroom. Garage, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £230,000



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

Show Home now open for viewings (by appointment) with construction now completed, and just 4 plots still available for sale, an exciting new development of gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £279,000. Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

PRICES FROM £218,500



KINGSWINFORD, Cot Lane

An OUTSTANDING TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys an open front outlook to the park grounds opposite and a large rear garden, very well placed for sought after schools. A position which further enhances the BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout, including FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC D

£275,000



KINGSWINFORD, Summerhill

This LUXURY DETACHED BUNGALOW enjoys a SECLUDED SETTING from a shared drive off Summerhill, a short level walk to Kingswinford's amenities, offers: Hall, 19' LOUNGE, separate Dining Room (both can create a Lounge/Dining area and a Bedroom 3), Feature Kitchen, Two fitted bedrooms, En-Suite and Master Bathroom, Forecourt Parking, Garage, and Rear level patio/lawned garden. EPC D

New price

£249,950



SEDGLEY, Northway

Impressive, spacious, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow upon generous corner plot within walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities comprising; porch, hall, kitchen, 18'3" living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with units), reappointed bathroom, conservatory, secluded rear garden, garage, driveway. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £204,950



KINGSWINFORD, Cherry Tree Road

A BEAUTIFULLY & EXPENSIVELY REFURBISHED MODERN SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME, which is superbly placed close to schools, shops/amenities, offering a LARGE and EXTENDED layout including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS EPC D

£192,950



WOMBOURNE, The Celandines

Very pleasantly situated within this exclusive cul de sac location, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys an attractive rear aspect and offers a spacious, well presented layout, plus a driveway, TANDEM GARAGE and a level, patio / lawned rear garden. EPC D

£189,950



WORDLEY, Warwick Road

Just completely refurbished throughout, this IMMACULATE and 'READY TO MOVE INTO' SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW enjoys a BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED and RE-DECORATED layout of GENEROUS accommodation including TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS. With SIDE GARAGE/STORE and a very pleasant private rear garden. EPC E

£182,500



WOODSETTON, Rosalind Avenue

EXTENDED, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & either uPVC or aluminium framed double glazed semi detached comprising; porch, hall, 23'3" through living/dining room, EXTENDED kitchen with an extensive range of units, pantry, lobby. Three bedrooms, shower room, toilet. Lengthy garage. Driveway and extensive rear patio together with neat garden. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,950



WALL HEATH, Blaze Hill Road

Enjoying superb open views to the fore and a pleasant countryside outlook to the rear together with a large rear garden, this IMPRESSIVE SEMI DETACHED HOUSE has been EXTENDED to now offer a GENEROUS layout of accommodation including TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS EPC D

£139,950



COSELEY, Highmoor Close

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, conscientiously maintained, and much improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated (comb boiler), uPVC double glazed semi detached in cul-de-sac with open aspect to front & backing on to woodland. Accommodation provides; porch, hall, store, kitchen, transverse 18'3" living/dining room, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £132,950



PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

Within this exclusive cul de sac section of this sought after address, this MODERN TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOUSE offers a well presented layout including a CONSERVATORY, plus an ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE and a landscaped low maintenance garden. EPC C

£129,950



COSELEY, Elmdale Road, Bramford Estate

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed semi detached in a favoured district convenient for so many day-to-day amenities/railway station etc. Superb accommodation provides entrance hall, reception hall, sitting room with bay, extended 16'10" living room, extended 13'4" kitchen, three bedrooms (two with fitted units), bathroom, 23'10" garage, block paved driveway, lengthy garden. Mining Search available. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £125,000



WOODSETTON, Roper Way

A tastefully presented, modern end of terrace property located in an extremely sought after area of Sedgley. Boasting central heating and double glazing this ideal starter home also benefits from entrance hall, living room, recently re-fitted breakfast kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. The fantastic home is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



DUDLEY, King Edmund Street

A superbly presented starter property situated on a much sought after modern development in Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this fantastic Coach-House also boasts hallway/landing, open-plan living room/ fitted kitchen, double bedroom, fitted bathroom, car-port parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950



SEDGLEY, Elgin Close (Off Springfield Avenue)

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING exceptionally stylish gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed first floor flat presented in exemplary order throughout comprising: entrance vestibule with staircase up to first floor having a central landing with two stores, shower room (former bathroom) with white suite, super double bedroom, 16'3" lounge/dining room, contemporary style kitchen with a fine range of units and various integrated appliances, communal grounds, shared parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £75,000



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive

Benefiting from mains gas central heating this modern semi-detached comprises wc, living room, kitchen, bathroom. TWO BEDROOMS. Plot No. 69 offers the advantage of purchasing in conjunction with the Midland Heart Housing Assoc's SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME whereby the present vendors 50% SHARE is available to buy, the remaining 50% owned by the Housing Assoc. who charge a fair market rental reviewed annually in line with any increase in the Retail Price Index. EPC: C SEDGLEY.

Price £59,950

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- A delightful Bungalow
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OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £284,000
WOLVERHAMPTON

Caringby Drive, Ettingshall Place

- Modern semi detached
- Attractive, well presented
- Breakfast Kitchen
- THREE-bedroom

- EN-SUITE
- Ideal for first time buyers
- Guest WC
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £194,000
COSELEY

Stretton Place, Woodcross

- A well presented terrace
- quiet location in Woodcross
- Popular residential area
- FOUR bedrooms
- Two shower rooms
- Good size garden
- Ideal family home
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £188,000
SEDLLEY

Lime Road.

- A generous mid terrace property
- THREE bedrooms
- Convenient for Sedgley centre
- Open plan layout
- Cloakroom and Utility
- Modern bathroom
- EPC Rating - D

£194,950
HIGH HOLBORN, SEDLEY

Holborn House:

- A modern apartment
- Situated in the heart of Sedgley Town
- Unique designed layout over 2 floors
- Features double height ceilings
- One bedroom and two bathrooms
- Another reception room (office/playroom)
- Communal ROOF TERRACE
- Secure parking area
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - C

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LOW LEVEL STATION,

Broad Gauge Way.

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DISCOVER UNRIVALLED LIVING WITH KIER

Couple find perfect home thanks to Kier

Kier Living

One of the first families to move to the new Brownhills housing development have praised their new home.

The Espeley-Atkin's moved onto Kier Living's Waterside Place development in November when their house was one of the first to be completed on the site.

Recently married in August, the couple purchased the home to start a fresh new chapter in their lives.

Darren, aged 31, a sales executive who works in Reading, and Maria, 41, a receptionist in Cannock, immediately fell in love with the property upon visiting the development for the very first time.

Extras

"We looked at a number of new build developments in the area, but nothing compared to what Kier Living had to offer," said Darren.

"Our home comes complete with many additional extras such as washer/dryer and fridge freezer for example – items that other builders charge for."

"The development is also ideally located for us with great commuter links making it easier to get to work and has plenty of local amenities. We are especially looking forward to taking our pet Labrador Jazz for many walks alongside the nearby canal."

"The idea of decorating our own blank canvas really excites us and we can't wait to make this house our home."

Darren and Maria purchased a 'Fairbourne' three-storey home for them and their children Brad aged 18 and Caitlin, 16.

They particularly liked the split level design of the living space, meaning they could have their own space on the top floor while the children enjoyed the sanctuary of their own bedrooms.



Having previously rented a property, the couple used the Government-backed Help to Buy scheme to make their move happen.

The initiative allows buyers to purchase a property with only a five per cent deposit and helps to fund up to 20 per cent of the purchase price in the form of an equity loan.

Darren added: "One of the many benefits with moving to a new build is that our monthly

outgoings will be considerably less.

"For a start our monthly mortgage is more or less half of what we used to pay in rent.

"We'll also benefit from reduced heating bills because of the energy efficient build.

"We are very pleased with the design and quality of the house.

"However, if we need any assistance we are comforted in the knowledge that there is a ten

year home warranty and a two year Kier Living customer care programme in place.

"The service we received from Sam the sales advisor was excellent and we had good communication throughout.

"She was quick and responsive and all of the information about Help to Buy was easy to understand.

"It was stress free too as the mortgage adviser

dealt with everything on our behalf.

"We can't praise the staff at Kier Living enough and would highly recommend them to anyone looking to buy a brand new home."

Waterside Place is a stunning development of two, three and four-bedroom homes with prices starting from £133,995.

For more information visit www.kierliving.co.uk



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Quality residences from Cameron Homes

Cameron Homes

Cameron Homes, which is amongst the Midlands' most respected building companies, is creating some superb developments at locations throughout the region in 2017.

High quality residences, all carefully designed and finished to an exacting specification, are being provided by the long-established Staffordshire-based building company.

This means that the new year could mean a fresh start in a brand new Cameron home for many people – and by using one of the company's most successful sales incentives, the move can be a hassle-free reality.

Andy Gough, Sales and Marketing Director of Chasetown-based Cameron, explains that the part exchange scheme is a popular way to purchase a new property.

"Part exchange, where we buy a customers' existing home, worked very well in 2016, with many people taking advantage of it, and we expect it to be just as popular in the coming 12 months. As a family-owned company we pride ourselves not only on the high standard of our properties but also on our excellent customer care and we have a range of other ways to help, such as offering financial advice and guidance," he says.

Cameron has several established developments where the part exchange incentive is available. At Keepers Cross, in Tividale, the company is providing a contemporary collection of 54 two, three and four bedroom homes with excellent links to Dudley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Customers can choose from 14 stylish layouts, many of which offer garages and en suite master bedrooms.

Bourne Fields is Cameron's flagship development, featuring an elegant collection of



CONTACT US

Cameron Homes

Tel: 01543 671818

Web: cameronhomes.co.uk

14 remarkable five-bedroom residences at an enviable address.

With a premium specification and a desirable location between Aldridge and Streetly, Bourne Fields is the epitome of luxury living. All 14 homes feature everything you'd expect from a showcase Cameron collection, including a stunning kitchen, a sumptuous master suite and spectacular open plan living spaces.

Coney Lodge, in Burntwood, is set back from Rugeley Road and is hidden by mature

trees. This is a select development of just eight beautifully-designed three and four-bedroom residences. The collection borders acres of countryside, on the edge of Gentleshaw Common.

At Tattonhill, Staffordshire, Oakhurst is a collection of just eight beautifully designed four-bedroom homes, located approximately three miles from Burton upon Trent. These exclusive residences will each feature an integral garage, a spacious master suite and a modern open



plan kitchen with bi-fold doors.

Lakeside Apartments, at Barton under Needwood, is a development of 54 two-bedroom apartments offering the highest-standard of specification, security and style. With restaurants, bars and delicatessens on one side and woodland, lakes and towpaths on the other, life at Lakeside Apartments allows you to explore a new side of life every day. The first phase of apartments is anticipated to go on sale early 2017. Cameron's new development

in Hill Ridware, a small village near Rugeley, will be called Austen Grange. There will be two phases of properties, with the first going on sale in May, but a total of 48 houses will be provided, including affordable homes. The designs will range from two to five bedroom homes, including detached and semi detached styles. This is set to be one of the company's busiest years and it will be an exciting one too for the many people who move into a new Cameron property.



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To find out how we can help you buy with our tailored purchase packages, visit cameronhomes.co.uk

*Available on selected plots.

Tatton Hall Homes proud to be local

Tatton Hall Homes

Tatton Hall Homes Limited is proud to be a local housebuilder with close links to Wolverhampton and other West Midlands regions.

The company offers stylish 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties with luxury kitchens and bathrooms as well as barn conversions which provide modern and contemporary living in idyllic locations.

The company is well respected and trusted and works in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council. With a wealth of experience in the housebuilding sector, the company traded successfully throughout the last recession in which many small and medium sized developers failed.

The company supports the community in which it operates. They recruit locally, employing staff from Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Bilston, Sedgley, Ashmore Park and Essington. They use local suppliers and tradespeople and locally sourced materials wherever possible. Ashmore Glass, Carvers, Howdens, M & G Developments, Newpool Construction and Walter Tippers are contributors to their projects.

The company also works closely with Stourbridge College to provide a Modern Apprenticeship placement.

Tatton Hall Homes Limited recently relocated their office to Deansgate, 62-70, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton

The Management Team have a thorough knowledge of the areas in which they operate. The importance of purchasing sites within the proximity of good schools is a key feature in the company strategy.

Sites at Broadleaf Gardens, WV3, and Hill Croft Gardens, WV4, are both within easy reach of The Royal School, Wolverhampton. Previously an independent, private school, this is now a state school. The Hill Croft Gardens development, Warstones, was a prize winner in



the 2016 'Built in Quality Awards' as a result of a nomination by Wolverhampton City Council. The site has only 2 properties remaining.

The Broadleaf Gardens development, Birches Barn Road, WV3 7BU, is already selling well and Show Homes will be open for viewing in March. Managing Director, Carl Tatton, understands the need for new homes in the area. He is especially keen to promote the

Government-backed Help to Buy Scheme advising that the scheme can make a house purchase a reality.

Carl says: "Buying a property can be cheaper than renting. Recent press articles may have given the impression that the Help to Buy Scheme has ended. Only the Mortgage Guarantee element has ceased. The normal Help to Buy Equity Loan remains available at



CONTACT US

Tatton Hall Homes

Tel: 07496 087045

Web: www.tattonhallhomes.co.uk

present. With the scheme, only 5% deposit is needed to purchase any of our properties. This is the lowest deposit available. Importantly, the scheme is available to first time buyers as well as those who own a property."

Carl adds: "New homes have much to offer. Improved building regulations and modern materials mean higher building specifications than in older properties and cheaper energy

costs. With standard security features, two year appliance warranties, no time consuming

maintenance or repairs and 10-year structural warranties a new home is a sensible investment".

To find out more about properties on offer and the benefits and terms and conditions of the Help to Buy Scheme contact the Sales Team on 07496 087045.



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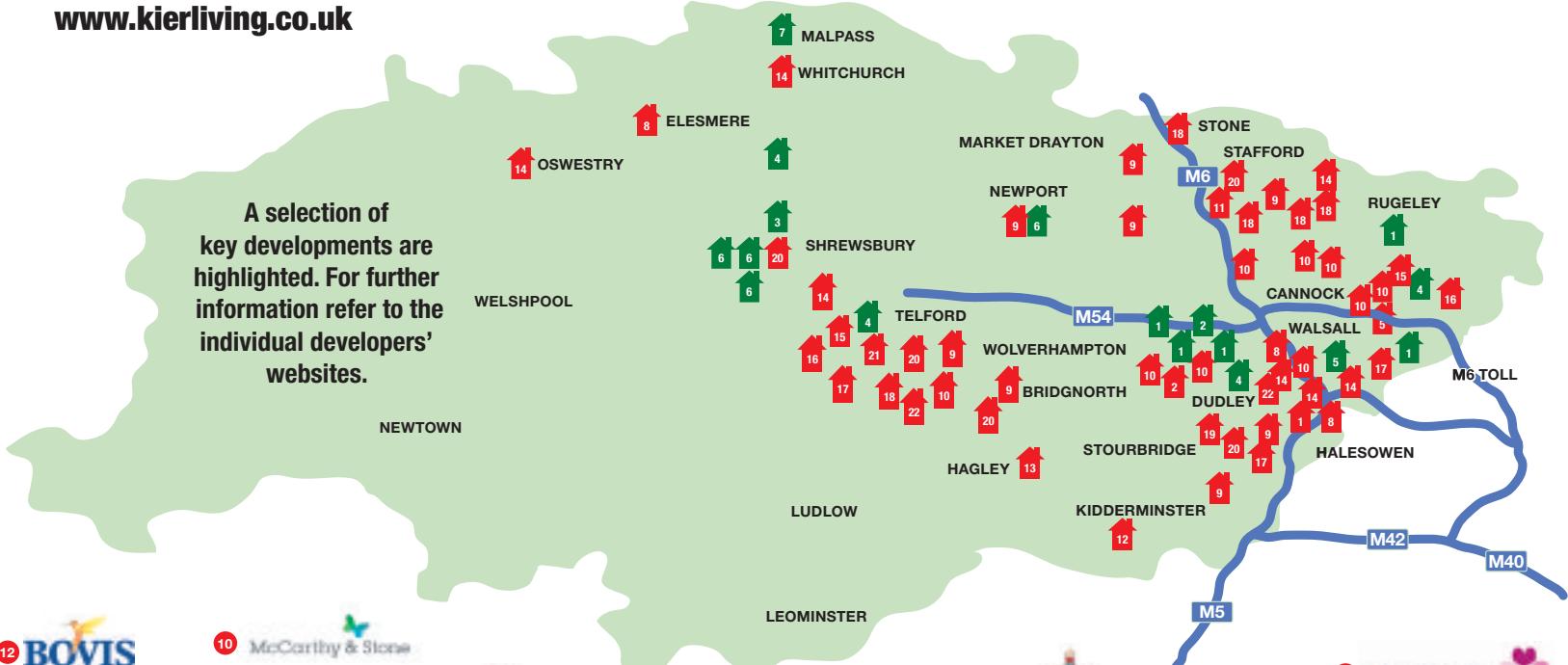


5 Sites for more details visit
www.galliershomes.co.uk



9 Sites for more details visit
www.redrow.co.uk

A selection of key developments are highlighted. For further information refer to the individual developers' websites.



10 McCarthy & Stone



18 miller homes



9 Taylor Wimpey



17 Lioncourt Homes

11 Bellway



Renault's first new car offers for 2017

Renault has announced a selection of offers that make owning a car from the French manufacturer even more of a tempting proposition.

With a strong focus on convenience and affordability, Renault UK has introduced brand-new two-year 0 per cent APR PCP Selections packages. Available on new Clio, Captur, all-new Mégane and all-new Mégane Sport Tourer, Kadjar, all-new Scénic and all-new Grand Scénic, these deals offer the lowest monthly payments of any of Groupe Renault UK's Selections PCP packages and, as with the brand's other PCP offers, come with the added benefit of no minimum customer deposit.

As an example, the ever-popular new Clio with its recently refreshed styling and enhanced interior and equipment can be driven from only £129 per month on a two-year 0 per cent APR PCP Selections package. The deal on the Play 1.2 16V 75 version also includes a manufacturer deposit contribution of £850 and a customer deposit of £3,588.

Additionally, Renault UK's popular three-year 3.99 per cent APR Selections PCP packages are more affordable than ever. The deposit contributions are now the same as those for similar deals over a four-year duration, with the additional manufacturer support working to lower the total amount payable and the cost of interest.

Available alongside a variety of 0 per cent APR HP offers, the new and revised Selections PCP packages ensure that drivers enjoy even greater choice when it comes to financing their new Renault.

Cash buyers also benefit from the limited time offers. Notably, there are sizeable



The all-new Scénic is included in the offer



Two year 0 per cent finance on the new Mégane

savings across the innovative, rear-engined, rear-wheel drive Renault Twingo range with prices starting from only £7,995 for the Expression S Cé 70 – representing a saving of £1,500 on the normal list price up to savings of £2,410 on the Dynamique S TCe 90 Auto which is now available from £11,395.

Multiple cash offers are available for anyone considering joining the ever-increasing number of drivers choosing an electric vehicle with the multiple award-winning Renault

Zoe in Expression Nav guise available from £11,995 (inc PICG) – representing a £2,000 customer saving. With the longest range of any mainstream electric vehicle – up to 250 miles (NEDC Combined) or an estimated 186 miles in real world conditions – the new ZOE Dynamique R90 Z.E 40 is now available for £15,845 (inc PICG), representing a customer saving of £2,000.

Alternatively, the new Zoe Dynamique R90 Z.E 40 can be driven away available on a



Renault's Clio has recently been refreshed and the interior enhanced

five year 0 per cent APR HP package with nil customer deposit and a £2,500 manufacturer deposit contribution. In addition to all retail purchases, customers will receive a free 7kW Wall-Box home charger, making their ownership experience of the four-time winner of the What Car? 'Best Electric Car for up to £20,000' and their 2017 'Electric Car of the Year' even more convenient.

With the offers available on vehicles registered by the end of March, customers

will save further by avoiding the changes in Vehicle Excise Duty that are applicable from April 1, 2017. By ordering and registering their new Renault before this date they can potentially enjoy three-figure savings.

Customers will also benefit from the Renault 4+ warranty and Renault Assistance vehicle recovery scheme, which comes as standard with every Renault and provides the ultimate peace of mind for four years or 100,000 miles.

Corsa Limited Edition 1.4 (75ps) 3 door



Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback
1.4 Limited Edition 3dr Representative example

£1000 MINIMUM PART EXCHANGE

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Skoda scores triple crown of awards



The Kodiaq, Škoda's first foray into the sector, drove off with Best Large SUV

By James Parker

Škoda has kicked off 2017 with another remarkable haul of titles at the annual What Car? Awards. The all-new Kodiaq, Fabia Hatchback and Superb Estate all won their categories at the ceremony widely regarded as the 'Oscars' of the automotive world.

As in previous years, the event was attended by some of the biggest names in the industry. And, once again, it was Škoda that provided the biggest cheers of the night. The all-new Kodiaq headlined Škoda's triple crown of awards, driving off with the coveted Best Large SUV 2017.

Favourite

Commenting on the award, Steve Huntingford, What Car? editor, said: "We had high expectations for the Czech brand's first large SUV, and the Kodiaq doesn't disappoint. Our favourite model costs a little more than £28,000, and for that you get seven seats, four-wheel drive, a punchy 148bhp diesel engine and generous equipment levels. It's simply a brilliant large SUV."



Fabia retained its Best Small car title

Not to be outdone by the newest member of the Škoda family, the Fabia Hatchback continued its remarkable run of awards by clinching Best Small Car 2017.

Crowned overall Car of the Year in 2015, the Fabia has retained its Best Small Car title for three years in a row – confirming it as one of the most complete superminis on the market.

"Over the past 12 months, we've seen plenty of new small cars come and go, but the Fabia still sits at the top of the pile," said Steve Huntingford.

"The Fabia not only feels agile and easy to drive in town, but is also more comfortable and refined at motorway speeds than many larger cars. Its solidly built interior and impressive array of safety kit just set it further apart from rivals. Throw in its interior features and outstanding practicality, and it's a clear winner."

Completing Škoda's collection of 2017 titles was the Superb Estate, which took top honours in the estate car category. Like the Fabia, the Superb retained its crown – comfortably seeing off stiff competition.

Explaining the judge's decision, Steve Huntingford said: "Škoda really has taken a lead in this class; the Superb retains the crown it won last year, and the Fabia isn't far behind it. Practicality, performance, space, comfort and affordability are king here, and no car mixes all these things as phenomenally well as the Superb."

Škoda was also awarded three price point wins on the night, with the Citigo winning best City Car for £8,000-£10,000, Fabia Estate named best Estate Car for less than £18,000 and the Superb gaining an award for best Executive Car for under £25,000.

Further details of the What Car? Awards can be found in the February 2017 edition of the magazine and at www.whatcar.com. Additional assets for all Škoda models are downloadable from www.skodamedia.com



The Superb won Best Estate

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Suzuki's rather surprising package

By Ian Donaldson

Should you find yourself at a motor dealers' convention (lucky you), the people with the widest grins might well be selling new Suzukis.

Last year UK new car sales hit a record high overall and so did Suzuki, with more than 38,000 leaving their showrooms.

That's good, but better – much better – is the 59 per cent hike in profits made by the dealers selling them.

Think of that as a pay rise so big you start to dream about holiday homes near a sunny golf course or that round the world cruise you've been promising yourself when things turned better.

And now comes a new Suzuki so on trend with what the car market demands right now that the lucky dealers might already be mentally upgrading their cruise cabins to commodore status.

The Ignis is a small family hatch disguised with hints of beefy off-roader, or what the trade calls a crossover. And car buyers can't get enough of this style at the moment, witnessed by an avalanche of new models.

Building it a bit taller than normal means more room inside, especially in the back, where a six-footer can sit comfortably behind his twin brother. There can't be a more spacious car on the market that fills the modest shadow cast by the Ignis.

As well as presenting as a crossover, the Ignis approaches that other holy grail of current car design – lightness. In its most basic form the car turns a featherweight 810kg on the scales, with predictably good results on the economy front.

All five versions of the Ignis, with prices from £9,999 for the SZ3, use the same 1.2 litre 90 horsepower petrol engine, although a couple



The Ignis is very spacious

are available with a modest boost from a small generator helping the car during acceleration.

The extra battery sits under the front passenger seat and this SHVS version (from £12,999) cuts the CO2 figure from 104g/km to 97g/km and hikes the official average fuel consumption from 61.4mpg to 65.7mpg.

You can have a semi-automatic Ignis, with an electric motor working the clutch, for an extra £800 and there's a top version, costing £13,999 and combining the small electric boost with a part-time 4x4 system aimed at the sort of Suzuki owner who lives down a country lane and needs to get to work on a snowy morning.

Every Ignis gets air conditioning, DAB radio with Bluetooth and front electric windows. They won't sell many of those, with likely most popular Ignis the next grade up.

This £11,499 SZ-T adds satellite navigation, rear view camera, alloy wheels, roof rails and plastic wheel arch extensions and LED headlamps. It also has twin rear seats that can slide forward to boost boot room, or back to let the lanky of leg relax.



A new family hatch disguised with hints of beefy off-roader, or what the trade calls crossover

The SZ5 (£12,999) adds dual air conditioning, keyless entry and start and rear electric windows. It is also fitted with camera brake support that spots a vehicle or people in the road ahead and will brake for you if necessary.

This system brings a top five star safety rating in the European tests, without it the Ignis scores a less impressive three stars.

But back to what's likely to attract a buyer to an Ignis in the first place, those looks. For maximum effect you'll need another £465 for

metallic paint, or £650 for contrasting metallic black on the roof. Meant, there is only one no-cost paint finish, a bold red.

The interior is at least as striking as the bodywork outside. It's obviously built down to a cost but attention to detail in matching surfaces and keeping panel gaps tight in these Japanese built machines is pleasingly obvious.

Out on the road in an SZ-T version the lightness of this newcomer translates into a car that feels livelier than you might expect

from its unspectacular power output. There's a nimble way it reacts to steering input too, making the Ignis feel keen to please in the manner of an enthusiastic puppy.

Driven with some verve it showed 57mpg on the handsomely readable instrument panel; lifting off a bit had the numbers climbing to 61.7mpg.

That's better than Suzuki showed in the official test – which makes it an event as rare as a television talent show host becoming president of the United States.



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New generation Hyundai i30 prices start at £16,995



New generation Hyundai i30 has a choice of 11 colours

Hyundai Motor UK has officially announced the pricing and specification of the new generation i30, which will go on sale in the UK on March 1.

New generation i30 offers a high level of standard safety equipment, with lane departure warning system, forward collision warning system, lane keep assist, autonomous emergency braking and hill start assist control featuring on all models. Standard technology and connectivity equipment also feature with all new generation i30's benefitting from DAB and Bluetooth regardless of trim level.

Prices will start from £16,995 for the i30 S 1.0 T-GDi 120PS 6 speed manual, which offers 15" alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio with USB and aux connections, Bluetooth with steering wheel controls, electric front and rear windows and driver seat height adjustment.

From £18,695, the i30 SE 1.0 T-GDi 120PS manual builds on S trim level by offering customers additional equipment including 16" alloy wheels, front fog lamps, DAB radio with 5" LCD touchscreen, rear parking assist system, rear view camera and leather steering wheel. SE specification is also available with a 1.6 CRDi 110PS, with 6 speed manual transmission. Moving further up the range, the i30 SE Nav 1.0 T-GDi 120PS Manual at £19,645 continues with SE specification and adds additional enhancements to technology and connectivity, with integrated satellite



Rear parking assist is available

navigation with 8" LCD touchscreen, Bluetooth with voice recognition and wireless phone charging. As a £1,000 customer option, SE Nav specification is available with the visibility pack, which comprises dual LED headlights, 17" alloy wheels and dual zone climate control.

SE Nav specification is also the first trim level to introduce the new 1.4 T-GDi 140PS engine, available with a 6 speed manual, or 7 speed DCT transmission, whilst the 1.6 CRDi 110PS engine, available with either a 6 speed manual or 7 speed DCT transmission, is an additional customer option.

Raising the specification further, Premium starts at £22,195 for the 1.4 T-GDi 140PS manual. Premium trim includes 17" alloy wheels with uprated Michelin tyres, dual zone climate control, electronic parking brake with auto hold function, privacy glass and heated front seats with artificial leather/cloth seat facings.

Drivers also benefit from an electrically adjustable seat, a supervision instrument cluster with 4.2" display and driver assistance systems including front and rear parking assist system and blind spot detection system with rear cross traffic alert and LED front headlights and rear combination lights. At Premium trim level, the 1.4 T-GDi with a 7 speed DCT transmission and a 1.6 CRDi 110PS engine with either a 6 speed manual or 7 speed DCT transmission are also available.

The top of the range Premium SE enters the range at £23,495 for the 1.4 T-GDi 140PS manual, adding panoramic sunroof, leather seat facings and a heated steering wheel to the Premium specification. Premium SE is also available with the six speed manual, seven speed DCT transmission, with either the 1.4 T-GDi 140PS or 1.6 CRDI 110PS.

New generation i30 is available in a choice of 11 colours, with a new colour Engine Red joining Polar White as solid finish, no cost options. Stargazing Blue, Demitasse Brown, Intense Copper, Fiery Red, Platinum Silver, Micron Gray, Phantom Black, Ara Blue and White Sand are all metallic or pearl paint finishes, a £585 option.

All new generation i30 models come with Hyundai's industry-leading 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty, 5 Year roadside Assistance package, 5 Year Annual Health Check, and 12 Year Anti Corrosion Warranty.

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14/14 VAUXHALL ANTARA 5-dr. 2.2 CDTI 16v EXCLUSIV FWD, Black, 18,114 miles	£11,995	12/12 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC TDCi 70 5-dr. Blue, 34,535 miles	£6495
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13/13 HONDA JAZZ SLI VTEC 5-dr. Black, 32,200 miles	£6995	14/14 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 TOCA 3-dr. Red, 23,897 miles	£6995
14/63 VAUXHALL MOKKA TECHLINE 1.4T S/S Olympic, 12,876 miles	£11,995	13/13 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SPORT TOURER CDTI 2.0 MACADEMIA	£9995
12/62 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE Automatic, Grey, Two Owners, Air Con,	£7995	Metallic, 25,000 miles	£9995
08/58 MERCEDES CISO COUPE CLC Black, 78,500 miles, Alloys, History,	£6695	12/62 MG 6S GT Turbo, Blue, 21,743 miles	£5650
14/14 BMW 118D M-SPORT 5-dr. White, Diesel, Low Miles	£14,450	13/13 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV Bronze, One Owner, 6,000 miles,	£7995
		14/14 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 TECH LINE Blue, 20,205	£7990
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Get a load of these Volkswagen offers

Volkswagen Retailers have a particularly eye-catching offer: a £3,250 saving on the Golf hatchback.

This offer runs until April 3 and applies to all trim levels of the Golf hatchback including the headline-grabbing high performance Golfs.

This includes the legendary Golf GTI, the rapid Golf GTD and the flagship Golf R with 4MOTION four-wheel drive.

The range begins with the Golf S, which costs from £14,375 with the offer applied. The car includes the composition media system, with a 6.5-inch colour touchscreen and Bluetooth telephone connection. Manual air conditioning includes a dust and pollen filter while an electronic parking brake features an auto-hold feature for hill starts.

Safety is enhanced with electronic stability control and traction control. In the front, driver's and front passenger's airbags are combined with a driver's knee airbag and front seat side impact airbags. And both front and rear passengers have a curtain airbag system.

The Golf Match Edition adds executive-car features including radar-assisted adaptive cruise control (ACC) that takes the strain out of driving in urban traffic and on the motorway. Automatic driving lights add to the inherent safety of the Golf, as do rain-sensing automatic windscreen wipers. Front and rear parking sensors help reduce the likelihood of car park knocks and scrapes.

The Volkswagen Tiguan SUV now has an increased deposit contribution of up to £1,500 at 5.1 per cent APR representative for customers taking advantage of a Volkswagen Financial Services' Solutions Personal Contract Plan. The range kicks off with the Tiguan S, which is well-equipped with features including the Composition Media system with eight-inch colour touchscreen.



All trim levels of the Golf have special offers



The Tiguan luxury SUV gets fixed price servicing



Flagship Golf R is included in the current range of offers from Volkswagen

The Tiguan has a maximum five star rating from the Euro NCAP safety programme thanks to its variety of safety features including electronic stability control, traction control and trailer stabilisation function. The Tiguan S, SE and SE Navigation models benefit from a £1,500 deposit contribution while the SEL and R-Line trims have a contribution of £1,250.

The SEL has 19-inch alloy wheels, discover navigation system with European navigation data and a three-year subscription to Car-Net 'Guide and Inform'. This provides online access to a range of information such

as traffic, fuel pricing and parking space availability. There is also active info display.

The Tiguan R-Line adds 20-inch 'Suzuka' alloy wheels and sports suspension. Its sporty credentials are bolstered by unique bumpers and special 'R-Line' badging. The interior features aluminium-look inserts in the dash and door panels and a black rooflining.

The Polo now has a £1,400 deposit contribution at 6.2 per cent APR representative for customers taking advantage of a Volkswagen Financial Services' Solutions Personal Contract Plan. And insurance is included at no extra cost.

Also, the Polo range has just been boosted with the new Match Edition, which adds £350 worth of equipment for just £50. Included are heated door mirrors that fold electronically and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror. Auto windscreen wipers plus front and rear parking sensors increase the technology count. The Polo Match Edition starts at £13,315.

The Volkswagen up! is a cheeky city car with a big personality. The Move up! and High up! trims are available with a £500 deposit contribution at 4.6 per cent APR representative. The Move up! starts at £10,025 and the High up!, which adds front fog lights,

electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors and a leather trimmed three-spoke multifunction steering wheel, starts at £11,580.

At the other end of the Volkswagen range is the Touareg. This luxury SUV has two engine options. Both power plants are 3.0-litre V6 turbo diesels with eight-speed automatic tiptronic gearboxes. The 262 PS version is available with a £6,000 deposit contribution at 5.9 per cent APR representative, while the 204 PS example is available with a £4,000 deposit contribution. The Touareg is now available with fixed price servicing which includes parts, labour and VAT.



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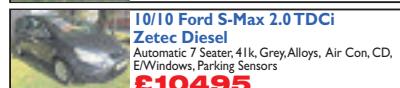
09/09 Jaguar XF 3.0 DV6 Luxury Diesel 4dr Automatic, ONLY 35k miles, ONE Owner, Ultimate Black,Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav,Climate, E/Windows **£13995**



10/10 Mercedes C220 CDI Diesel BlueEFFICIENCY Elegance Automatic, ONLY 36k miles, Grey,Alloys, Black Leather,Heated Seats, Climate,E/Windows **£11495**



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Finance example: 07/07 Honda Civic 1.8 i-TEC ES 5dr, Cash Price £4495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 monthly Payments of £99.60 (£22.96 per week) Total amount payable £6276.00 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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ClassifiedAds

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CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS

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WE NAILED IT!



Mickael Partodikromo during training sessions at Wolverhampton University's Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, for Rushall Olympic, whom he joined in the summer



Partodikromo's immediate goal is to help Rushall win promotion

Mickael Pics his side in bid for football dream

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

HOW far would you go to chase a dream? In Mickael Partodikromo's case, the answer is about 11,000 miles.

Partodikromo comes from New Caledonia, a little-known collection of islands owned by France and located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, between Australia and New Zealand.

For the past six years he has been trying to make it as a professional footballer, first in New Zealand, then France and now in England, his journey taking in stops at Swansea, Chelsea, Bolton, Sheffield United and, now Rushall Olympic.

At just 21 years of age, Partodikromo is well-spoken and polite and has the kind of maturity and quiet assurance which can probably only be achieved by spending four years away from your family, growing up on the other side of the world.

Spotted

Partodikromo has not seen his parents for two years and says he won't return home until he has fulfilled his ambitions.

"My parents support me a lot but I tell them not to call me too often," he says. "I know if they do, it will only make me homesick. To make the dream happen, you have to make sacrifices."

Football has been a central part of Partodikromo's life long before he was spotted by a scout and invited to join the Asia-Pacific Football Academy in Wellington, New Zealand.

He left home, alone at 14, only able to speak at that point French and Kunie, a language native to New Caledonia. "For the first three weeks in New Zealand I couldn't understand a word anyone was saying,"



The New Caledonian island paradise, 11,000 miles away, that Partodikromo left behind

laughs Partodikromo, who is now well-versed in the English language. Two years at the academy was followed by the offer of a trial at Swansea. "I went there by myself, I was 16 and stayed in digs," he says.

"It was hard," he admits. "Adapting to the weather and things like that. At home in winter it is 21 or 22 degrees. Over here it is zero degrees! Before I came to England, I had never seen snow."

The trial at Swansea was followed by another at Chelsea and then Bolton before, in 2013, Partodikromo was offered a scholarship at Sheffield United. It did not end in a professional deal, but the confidence gained from two years at Bramall Lane convinced Partodikromo to remain in Europe to continue chasing his dream.

After a brief spell at Worcester City in pre-season, where he played in a friendly against Villa, he joined Rushall in September. And he lives alone, having moved to Walsall from Sheffield. "I do my own everything, I take care of myself," he says. "I have gotten used to it, moving from home from such an early age. It's fine." He adds: "When I tell them where

I am from, people have no idea where it is. I have to show them on the phone. They can't believe it."

But how is he managing to get by on football earnings alone? "I saved up some money from when I was living in France and I get a bit of money from Rushall," he says. "Then, sometimes, if I really need something, mum and dad will help me, though I don't ask very often."

He speaks about his dad Bernard's work as a pharmacist and the cooking lessons from mum Sabine which have helped him fend for himself half a world away. It is the desire to repay their faith, their willingness for him to take the chance which gets him through the disappointments, the setbacks and the cold nights.

Partodikromo wants to follow in the footsteps of France World Cup-winner Christian Karembeu, by some distance New Caledonia's most famous export. But his immediate aim is to earn a regular starting place with the Picts and help the club win promotion from Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division. But he is still adamant his ultimate dream will come true.

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Run extends as star two on the move

Stourbridge 2 Marine 0

STOURBRIDGE overcame the loss of star defender Dan Scarr to move into the Evo-Stik League Premier Division play-offs places on Saturday.

The 22-year-old said his goodbyes to his Glassboys team-mates ahead of sealing a move to Championship Birmingham. Scarr has signed a two-and-a-half-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

Boss Gary Hackett said: "We are all thrilled for Dan. He's a great lad and he deserves this chance. He's been so consistent in his performances. I can't speak highly enough of him."

Former defender Kristian Green is also on the move, moving two steps up the non-league pyramid after agreeing a transfer to Solihull Moors.

Chairman Andy Pountney said: "We're sorry to lose Kristian. He's been a really consistent performer for us in his 18 months at the club."

On Saturday, Jordan Archer's pair of close-range headers from crosses by Stuart Pierpoint and Luke Benbow late in the first half decided an uneven contest in which Marine were happy to sit back and stifle.

The win stretched to 12 league matches Stour's unbeaten league record, moving Hackett's men into the top five for the first time this season.

"Bearing in mind we have lost two very strong defenders, we showed strength and power," said Hackett. "Stuart Pierpoint played very well last season but has had to be patient. He has done a great job since coming back in and while I know Chris Knight can play anywhere, I also know he can be a great left-back. At the same time, we have some very good flanking players as well."

"We won't bring in people for the sake of it. It might not happen straight away but it could, we have irons in the fire."

Strike duo Luke Benbow and Jordan Archer each bagged a brace as Stourbridge overpowered Mickleover Sports 4-0 last Tuesday.

Wrestling champ can inspire pupils

A DUDLEY school principal says a wrestling champion can inspire his pupils to future success.

Tyler Bate, aged 19, a former pupil at Ormiston Forge Academy in Old Hill, beat Pete Dunne at Blackpool's Express Ballroom to become the UK's first WWE champion. He was presented with his championship belt by US wrestling legend Triple H.

Bate, 23, has been competing for 11 years and had been the pundits' favourite to win. Bate, meanwhile, has been wrestling for just five years and works as a forklift driver alongside his training.

The Netherton resident represents Wolverhampton wrestling promotion Fight Club Pro.

Academy principal Andrew Burns said: "We are all incredibly proud of Tyler's achievement. He's shown that age and where you come from isn't a barrier to success. He'll inspire Forge students and he'll inspire young people all over the world, wherever he goes."

"He's worked hard and is a leading light for bright young talent from this area."



New Caledonian? This'll do for Pics star Mickael



Page 55

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Student nets place in national squad



Kaitlin Willets

A DUDLEY College student has been selected for the AoC National Netball squad after impressing during a two-day trial.

After competing against 80 other students from across the country for 20 places, Kaitlin Willets, aged 17, secured her spot, becoming the only student from the West Midlands to be selected.

Her success means that she will be heading to Gateshead, Belfast, Glasgow, Nottingham and Cardiff to train and play matches.

Netball

Willets is currently studying a BTEC Level 3 in sports coaching but still manages to play for Gorham-based Libra Lea Netball Club in the Regional and Walsall Leagues and also represents the West Midlands Regional Under-17 team.

Willets' coach at Libra Lea, Sally Bromley, was full of praise for the teenager, saying: "She is doing unbelievably well to balance netball,

college and work. It is really tough for the girls, so it is amazing she is managing to do it as well as she is."

Bromley also discussed how important it is for Willets to choose her university based on not only her education, but also their netball teams.

She said: "University is an important step for Kaitlin.

"It has the possibility of giving her a much larger platform to potentially be picked up from. She has a lot of potential, so hopefully she can realise it."

Winner not troubled but silver claimed

IT may have been another weekend and another muddy field to run round for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club but rather than continuing the relegation battle in the league the blue hoops had the opportunity to race in the Midlands Masters Cross Country Championships.

With the league races on the back burner until next month this was effectively a cup game and like many cup games DK fielded a weakened side.

With the race only open to runners over 35 years of age it was a case of experience over youth with DK fielding a single team of three runners in the M45 category.

With the race taking place at Aldersley Stadium in Wolverhampton the trio didn't have too far to travel but this was the third weekend in succession that the venue had hosted a cross country race and the ground over the 5k course was decidedly poached, rutted and muddy but with some imaginative course planning the organisers were able to miss out the worst parts over the four-lap course.

Although the DK runners were never in a position to trouble the winner, the recent Shropshire County champion and England international, Paul Ward of Telford AC who romped home unopposed in 27.48 the blue hoops performed well with Darran Bishop coming home in 25th place in 33.21, Dave Norman finished in 34.20 to take 29th place and Mark Homer brought the team home in 32nd position in 35.37 pocketing an individual bronze medal in the M55 age group.

DK claimed a team silver medal sandwiched between the local heavyweights Tipton Harriers who took the gold medal and Wolverhampton & Bilton who bagged the bronze.

Improving side get the better of Yeltz

Ashton Utd 2 Halesowen 1

DESPITE a battling performance, Halesowen lost to an improving Ashton United side, who have now won three home games in a row in the Evo-Stik Premier.

All the goals came in the opening half, with Ashton taking the lead on 12 minutes when Matt Chadwick crossed and Ryan Crowther found himself with an easy chance to make it 1-0.

But Danny Bragoli got the Yeltz back on terms on 17 minutes.

Just before the half-hour-mark, Ashton went ahead again through Dominic Smalley who neatly finished after setting himself up for a shot.



Under pressure, Dudley Kingswinford's Connah Jones clears the ball against Burton

Hughes has best pal 'Duzza' in sights

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes is aiming to take a leaf out of Glen Durrant's book and pour all of his efforts into toppling the BDO world champion.

Hughes reached the semi-finals for the second year running at the Lakeside but was downed 6-1 by Durrant, his best friend, who then beat Danny Noppert to secure his first world title.

The BDO No 1 and top seed is staying put, after the PDC declined to offer him an automatic Pro Tour card.

Hughes has also opted not to have a go at the PDC's Qualifying School. He justified his ranking of four by reaching the semi-finals and wants to ultimately beat Durrant's crown.

The 30-year-old Black Coun-

try thrower said: "I'll be working on my game now to make sure I give him a much harder game next time."

"He's a good mate and I know how hard he's worked to get to the top. I've got to put up with him for, at least, another 12 months now so I've got to get my head back on and improve myself."

★★★
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